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GOP VP nominee talks about gay mar-
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Once a gay bar...
Sacramento's largest
gay bar courts straights.
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see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 41 • 12 October 2000

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Whodunit in Health Commish's rubber-check charges

by Katie Szymanski

San Francisco Health Commissioner Ron Hill has a \$17,500 warrant out for his arrest in Sonoma County for false checks, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned. An investigation is pending regarding similar charges in San Francisco, according to sources in the District Attorney's office.

A very shaken and upset Hill told the *B.A.R.* on Tuesday, October 10 that he didn't know anything about the charges. Hill said that he is convinced the charges are connected to the fallout of a long relationship turned sour, and he alluded that his ex-lover of many years may have stolen his checks and/or identification.

Hill, 43, was appointed to the Health Commission by Mayor Willie Brown in 1997 and has regularly attended commission meetings, as recently as last Tuesday, October 3. The seven-member Health Commission, consisting of mayoral appointees, oversees the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Hill's Sonoma County warrant was issued in January of this year, according to the county's District Attorney's office. Bail has been set at \$17,500, but exact claims of damage were not available. In San Francisco, according to sources in the DA's office here, checks bearing Hill's name were allegedly written for "pretty sizable amounts" at antique stores in the Castro District.

The identification given during many of these purchases was Hill's Health Commission card, according to allegations, prompting many merchants who would not normally accept such large checks to do so for a city official. Yet there "are no Health

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Sex toy wars in the Castro

by Terry Beswick

Vibrators don't have sex, people have sex.

But market forces are at work, and the demand for vibrators, dildos, condoms, and a plethora of other sexual devices and related paraphernalia, are enticing businesses that sell these devices to open new retail outlets in the Castro neighborhood.

This week, an adult sex shop owned by a group called Bay Management, which owns numerous adult video stores in San Francisco and throughout the Bay Area, opened for business as Castro Gulch at 2358 Market Street in the ground floor storefront of the recently-closed Leather Zone. Because Bay Management wholesales to several other retail businesses in the Castro area—including its upstairs neighbor Captain Video—their move into the neighborhood is causing concern that they may undercut prices.

Meanwhile, two other adult-oriented businesses—Good Vibrations and Pleasure Chest—are competing to open new outlets in the neighborhood. Both are hoping to locate in the long-vacant Headlines space on the 500 block of Castro Street. Pleasure Chest is also considering the Valley Pride Market space at 474 Castro Street, which is for lease though the market remains open for business.

However, both buildings exceed 4,000 square feet, and an ordinance sponsored by Supervisor Mark Leno and recently approved by the Board of Supervisors requires all businesses planning to open in spaces larger than 4,000 square feet in the Castro area to obtain a conditional use permit from the Planning Commission.

Support from the neighborhood merchants and residents could therefore be key to the success of either business's permit applications if and when they go before the Planning Commission in a public hearing, and in an effort to garner support for their competing plans, representatives from both businesses made presentations at an October 5 meeting of Merchants of Upper Market and Castro.

'Dildos and burritos'

One MUMC member attending Thursday's meeting expressed concern that visitors to the neighborhood may soon think that "there's only two things the neighborhood wants: dildos and burritos."

MUMC President Patrick Batt, whose own businesses, Mercury Mail order and Auto-Erotica, would be affected by Good Vibrations or Pleasure Chest moving in, removed himself from leading the discussion on the issue and said he took a hands-off approach. "I turned that part of the meeting over to [Vice President] Barry [Hermanson]," Batt told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It was my attempt to retain some degree of neutrality."

Nevertheless, MUMC members appeared to be impressed with the presentation from Good Vibrations, a 23-year-old worker-owned cooperative. Its parent company, Open Enterprises, has stores in San Francisco and Berkeley, as well as an online store, a mail order catalog, and a small publishing company.

Overwhelmingly, in two separate straw polls, the approximately four dozen MUMC members in attendance last Thursday voted

against Pleasure Chest moving in and in favor of Good Vibrations, citing the latter business' extensive community education programs, and their long-standing appeal to a woman-based clientele, which many felt would result in less competition with businesses that cater primarily to gay men.

The Pleasure Chest, which originally opened in San Francisco in the 1970s before being sold to new owners, has stores in New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

"We felt that the Pleasure Chest has no connection to the community," said Lion Barnett, president of the Eureka Valley Promotion Association, who attended the MUMC meeting. "They were scrambling to gain our support."

Barnett's group, an association of residents of the Castro neighborhood, will discuss the competing plans at its next meeting on Thursday, October 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center on Collingwood at 18th street. ▼



The former Headlines space in the Castro is being talked about for another sex toy store.

Pride board elects first Asian, TG prez

by Cynthia Laird

There were whispered complaints at this year's San Francisco Pride festivities that it was long overdue for the committee to have a transgender person in a leadership position. Last week, that changed with the election of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee Inc.'s first-ever Asian and transgender board president.

Cecilia Chung has been in her new role only a week, but relishes the chance to make San Francisco's Pride Parade and celebration much more inclusive.

"I feel really excited because this is an opportunity to help my community become really visible," Chung told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Chung replaces Calvin Gipson, who served two years as board president. Gipson was elected vice president at the October 3 board meeting.

"For years, San Francisco has been a world leader in empowering transgendered people, bisexuals, people of color, and others who have been disenfranchised," Gipson said. "This is an historical moment as the Pride Committee is walking the talk when it comes to inclusion. Cecilia is the perfect choice to lead our march into the millennium."

Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington pointed out that Chung heads up one of the most diverse nonprofit boards



Cecilia Chung

in the city. The Pride Committee board consists of 13 directors from a broad spectrum of backgrounds, genders, classes, ages, and ethnicities, he said.

"I feel privileged to lead one of the world's biggest Pride celebrations and am proud that SF Pride is taking another step forward in making transgender history," Chung said. "I am looking forward to working with the community in setting ever higher standards for inclusion at next year's event."

Chung, a 15-year San Francisco resident, is an activist in both the Asian and transgender commu-

nities. She currently works at the Tom Waddell Health Center, where she provides case management and referrals for multiple-diagnosed clients who were previously homeless. She is also currently a member of the city's HIV Health Services Planning Council that prioritizes federal Ryan White CARE Act funds. Chung serves on the board of advisers for Gay.com's HIVlife channel.

Chung commended her fellow board members for helping to empower "marginalized communities, such as the transgender community."

"I'm looking forward to an exciting year and setting new event standards," she added.

At last week's meeting, board members were re-elected. In addition to Chung and Gipson they include: Bill Beasley, Joey Cain

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Morgan Hill school district appeals case

by Katie Szymanski

Attorneys had just embarked on a description of the years of anti-gay abuse endured by students at the Morgan Hill Unified School District from 1994-98 when Judge Joe Sneed interrupted the proceedings and said, "Do you remember your youth?"

It was a low point of the hearing last Thursday, October 5, in the Ninth District Court of Appeals in San Francisco, as Judge Sneed went on to assert that kids teasing each other is a fact of life. "I myself was taunted for how I looked," said Sneed. "Should I now file a lawsuit?"

The answer, of course, was "not if you're not part of a protected class," which plaintiffs in the suit, *Flores v. Morgan Hill Unified School District* believe they are. The now-famous legal case, brought to federal court on behalf of Alana Flores and five other former students of Live Oak High School in Morgan Hill south of



Alana Flores at this year's Queer Youth Lobby Day.

San Jose, maintains that the dangerous climate created by anti-gay peer harassment was unlawfully ignored by school officials despite repeated requests for help.

Still, while Sneed's comment

was probably indicative of bias, his opinions are not legally relevant, since the appeals process required the three justices present not to evaluate the facts of the case, but to determine whether the case was fit to be tried before a jury.

Attorneys for school officials maintain that they are immune from the lawsuit because they could not be expected to know that their deliberate indifference to the known anti-gay harassment of their students violated the law.

Death threats, physical abuse, and generally unsafe environments were a daily part of the plaintiffs' routines at Live Oak High School. A previous court has already found the case to be worthy of a trial, so this appeals process will either solidify or overturn that ruling. According to Ann Brick, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, which is representing the students, the pending decision from the Court of Appeals will take anywhere from six weeks to several months. ▼

Remaining No on Knight money will fund CAPE and marriage efforts

by Katie Szymanski

When the campaign to defeat Proposition 22 — known as No on Knight — failed last March, organizers told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the \$250,000 money leftover from funds raised to defeat the anti-gay marriage bill would be transferred to the California Alliance for Pride and Equality, one of California's statewide LGBT lobbying groups.

But as the months passed without much word on the funds' redistribution, whispered speculation circulated, and inside sources — both on the record and off — confirmed to the B.A.R. in September that unlike previous reports, No on Knight's leftover money was not necessarily guaranteed to go to CAPE.

While CAPE remains the biggest beneficiary of the money, significant amounts will be targeted toward fighting strictly for gay marriage rights, according to former campaign manager Mike Marshall. In fact, during the post-destruction period of what was once known as No on Knight, many different things are happening with the money that is not going to CAPE, said Marshall, all in the name of fighting for marriage.

"The consensus is that civil unions is a strategy, not a goal," Marshall told the B.A.R. in a recent interview. "Within the next few months we should be able to report exactly how the remainder of the donations will be used to



Mike Marshall

achieve this goal."

The bulk of the surplus had indeed been promised to CAPE; the lobbying organization for the LGBT community will receive a total of \$160,000.

But out-of-state efforts have also been helped as well; \$15,000 went to organizers in Nebraska to help them set up an infrastructure poised to fight for marriage.

As for the rest of the donations, Marshall said that attorneys for No on Knight have asked that a certain amount be set aside for the standard fines that are anticipated during any public campaign. When all is said and done, there will be about \$50,000 left, according to Marshall, and organizers want to put that toward the public education arm of the marriage fight.

"We're not yet sure how that will look," said Marshall, who said the \$50,000 could either go to help set up a new organization or go to efforts already in existence. "The first thing we will do is talk to the community who will put resources into the marriage fight, and try to develop a consensus on the structure of the public education piece of this."

Marshall said that when it comes to reaching a consensus within the LGBT community, he has faith that an agreement about the direction of the movement can be reached.

"We're much more disciplined than we want to give ourselves credit for," he said. "There's very little discordance. There's a lot of grumbling about the way we failed during the campaign, and I can acknowledge that. But we need to look at long-term strategies, learn from our mistakes, and continue to build." ▼

Retraction

In its July 27 and August 3, 2000 issues, the *Bay Area Reporter* ran stories regarding the death of Curtis Oliver Jr. (also known as Curtis Howard), who collapsed at the MCC homeless shelter in the Castro and later died at a local hospital. Mitchell Thompson, the director of the city's program for LGBTQ youth, was quoted in those stories as saying he had "repeatedly referred Curtis Howard to drug rehabilitation" and that Mr. Howard "in the past had drug problems," and "... had been out of control ...". The B.A.R. has since learned that Mr. Thompson never made those or any similar statements. The B.A.R. regrets and apologizes for any misunderstanding caused by its incorrect attribution of these quotes to Mr. Thompson.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

GLBT Historical Society turns 15



The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Historical Society of Northern California celebrated its 15th anniversary with a dinner benefit and awards presentation last week at San Francisco's Miyako Hotel. From left, honorees Lora Connolly (Woman of the Year), Elliott Blackstone (Man of the Year), GLHS Executive Director Susan Stryker, honorees Lou Harrison (Founders Award), and Eric Holcomb (Volunteer of the Year). Proyecto ContraSIDA por Vida received the Organization of the Year Award.

Queers help pro-tenant Propositions H and N

by Katie Szymanski

It's the package deal that tenant advocates want every renter to remember this November: H, L, and N could "save San Francisco," closing loopholes that allow profiteers to accumulate wealth at the expense of low and middle-income residents.

As Proposition L continues to gain support over its rival measure Proposition K, ballot measure backers want all tenants to remember that H and N are just as important for securing the future of long-term San Franciscans.

Proposition H, placed on the ballot by the Housing Rights Committee, redefines what extra work on a building can and cannot be passed on to a tenant, and finally calls the recent surge in "capital improvement" costs for what they are, according to Robert Haaland, organizing director for the committee.

"It's called gold plating," said Haaland. "There has been a 300 percent increase in these 'improvements' made by landlords in this volatile housing market, most done in an attempt to raise rents, the final consequence for many tenants being eviction."

Under current law, landlords can add an unnecessary coat of paint and many other non-essential amenities that increase the value of a property. That landlord can then pass on the cost of this profitable work to the tenants in the form of rent increases. The



Robert Haaland, center, and Tommi Avicoli Mecca, right foreground, prepare to hit the streets in opposition to Propositions H, N, and L.

landlord simultaneously writes off the costs on his or her tax return.

"The current law is being used as a tool to drive up rents," said Haaland, who pointed out that if Proposition H passes, landlords will still be able to pass on maintenance and operation costs to their tenants.

"Don't buy the argument that buildings are going to deteriorate," said Haaland.

Additionally, if the independent rent board finds that a landlord is not making a fair profit off property, capital improvements will be allowed at the expense of the tenant.

"It's a fair policy all around," said Haaland.

On the same side of the fence is Proposition N, championed by the San Francisco Tenants Union. Proposition N will close loopholes

in current law to bring all those condominium conversions that slip through the cracks into the same process that many condominiums now undergo.

As it stands, tenants can be evicted from rental property so that building owners can convert the apartments into tenancies in common and other forms of individual units that are exempt from the city's annual limit of 200 such conversions.

"A typical scenario is that someone goes in and buys a building for \$500,000, gets rid of the tenants through the Ellis Act, and sells each of the units for \$500,000, making \$2 million almost overnight," said Tommi Avicoli Mecca, a member of the SF Ten-

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Annual fall AEF benefit Saturday

by Cynthia Laird

It's time for a relaxing afternoon of good food and drink, all for a good cause. Bob O'Halloran and Bill Boeddiker, owners of the Parker House Guest House, will host their third annual fall benefit luncheon in their gardens this Saturday, October 14, to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund.

The luncheon - also hosted by Supervisor Mark Leno and 2223 Restaurant and Bar - is expected to draw approximately 150 people and raise \$15,000 for AEF, which provides direct emergency financial assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS.

The afternoon festivities will feature a gourmet buffet lunch prepared and donated by Melinda Randolph and David Gray of 2223 Restaurant and Bar. It will also feature appetizers from Mecca Restaurant and dessert by Montage Restaurant at Metreon.

Entertainment will include The Sarah Knutson Quartet playing in the garden and then will close with a "fantastic" raffle hosted by San Francisco's own Donna Sachet.

"We always pick the second Saturday in October as it is the best weekend of the year for guests to be outside and enjoy the gardens," said O'Halloran.

"Great food, live entertainment, and a terrific beneficiary

should make this our most successful fundraising event ever," added Boeddiker.

"This is one of the most fun events we participate in," said AEF's Clark Sealy. "With the help of the Parker House, 2223 Restaurant and Bar, and Supervisor Leno, the funds raised will help a large number of AEF's clients with their emergency rent, phone, and utility needs."

Tickets for the event are \$75 per person, with 100 percent of the proceeds going directly to AEF. The luncheon takes place from 1-5 p.m. at the Parker House, 520 Church Street. For more information or tickets, call (415) 621-3222. ▼

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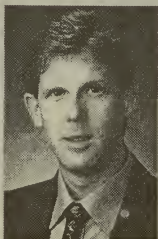
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Southern Baptists invoke homosexuality into Prop. 38 debate

by Dan Aiello

Sacramento's Arcade Baptist Church, led by pastor Daniel Henderson, is urging parishioners to support Proposition 38, the California school voucher initiative, in order to stop the state government's "promotion of homosexuality" in public schools, according to the organization's congregational program handed out last Sunday, October 8.

Coincidentally, the Yes on 38 campaign released a television ad this week claiming the California Teachers Association and Governor Gray Davis want to "keep predators and child molesters" in public classrooms. Timothy Draper, a conservative Republican with gubernatorial aspirations, is largely responsible both for this latest school voucher initiative and the anti-Davis, anti-CTA rhetoric espoused in the commercials.

The Arcade Baptist Church is one of many Southern Baptist congregations which spent last Sunday in "prayers for the government" from the pulpit and in program handouts urging parishioners to aggressively support the proposition in order to fight "the government's promotion of ho-

mosexuality in public schools."

This is not the first time the issue of homosexuality was invoked by the California Southern Baptist Convention for a political cause. The organization, based in Fresno, voted at its convention earlier this year to strongly and aggressively support Proposition 22, the Knight initiative, which banned any recognition of gay marriages. The church also currently supports the Boy Scouts of America in that organization's discrimination of gay scouts and troop leaders.

Terry Barone, public relations director for the CSBC, explained the convention votes on political issues. In the case of Proposition 38, "each church or congregation decides what their position is," said Barone. Although CSBC has supported school vouchers in the past, "our convention doesn't meet until after the election," he said.

Despite the lack of a convention vote, it is believed that nearly all of

the convention's 1,800 California churches and missions are pushing for the ballot measure's passage based on Draper's anti-gay message.

There are more than 430,000 Southern Baptists in California. They are considered to be among the most conservative of all Baptists. American, National, and Fundamental Baptists are separate organizations with views somewhat different, although all the organizations are considered anti-gay.

Garry Smith, political adviser for Governor Davis, responded to the latest Yes on 38 commercial aimed at Davis's opposition to the proposition. Smith said that because the proposition cannot stand on its own merits, the proponents of the initiative must attack Davis instead. "This latest act of desperation will neither save Proposition 38 nor help Draper [Proposition 38's main proponent] in his 2002 campaign for governor," stated Smith's press release. ▼

LGBT center office space available, opening delayed

by Terry Beswick

Commercial office space affordable to nonprofit groups is an increasingly rare commodity in San Francisco. Yet according to the San Francisco LGBT Community Center Project, just 15 applications have been received from organizations interested in the 11 small offices available for lease at the center currently under construction at the corner of Market and Octavia streets.

Additionally, toxic soil problems have led to a delay for the center's opening; a few months ago, the center was to open in time for next year's Pride festivities.

In an October 10 statement, however, Van Gorder announced a new deadline of Wednesday, October 25 at 5 p.m.

"It got extended because we were in the middle of a lengthy process of determining what the rents should be," Van Gorder explained to the B.A.R., adding that the rates are "a little higher" than previously planned.

The 11 offices range in size from 76 square feet to 192 square feet. In addition to the size of the office, monthly rents will reportedly be based on the size of an applicant organization's annual budget. The center expects to lease the offices for \$171 to \$529 per month, said Van Gorder, or between \$2.25

**"We had wanted to open in
time for Pride next year, but now
it looks like ... mid-July."**

Now, it appears the center won't open until next fall.

"The steel's going up now," Dana Van Gorder, CCP vice president, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "But we had a toxic problem and had to haul a bunch of dirt away." Additionally, there were foundation problems with the existing building.

"We had wanted to open in time for Pride next year, but now it looks like the building will be delivered in mid-July."

Van Gorder added that the center will probably move in and get settled, before having a major grand opening around the time of next year's Folsom and Castro street fairs. The center's \$14.5 million price tag has been paid for by the city, the state, and private contributors.

And how much did the recent building problems cost?

"A few hundred thousand dollars," Van Gorder said.

Regarding the office space, originally, the center's board had set a deadline of June 15 for appli-

and \$2.75 per square foot.

Based on a market analysis of comparable rents in the city, which range from \$2.75 to \$4 per square foot, Van Gorder said that the Community Center Project rates are "pretty fair."

"The offices are designed for small and start-up groups who will benefit from having space in the building" or groups that want to have a "satellite office" located there, said Van Gorder.

Representatives from the center will "sit down with everyone who's applied and try to determine what their needs are," and may encourage groups to share offices, he said.

The center will also pay for tenant improvements, janitorial expenses, and utilities, and tenants will have free access to conference and meeting rooms. ▼

For more information, call the
LGBT Community Center
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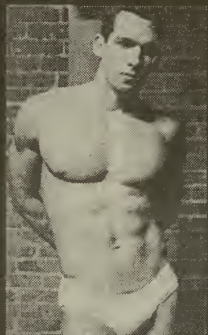
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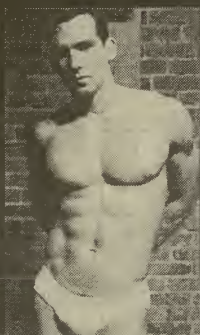
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COMMUNITY NEWS

It's Family Day Saturday

by Terry Beswick

All families are not the same in this country, not even in this village by the Bay. In fact, whether the progress-challenged among us like it or not, they haven't been the "same" for quite a long time.

Every year in San Francisco, hundreds of uniquely queer familial groupings gather together to celebrate diversity and take back the word "family" at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Family Day. The sixth annual festival is this Saturday, October 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition to a smattering of politics and education, this year's festival held at the Unitarian Universalist Center at 1187 Franklin Street at Geary Boulevard will include more diversions for the little ones than ever, including clowns, carnival games, a magic show, prizes, arts and crafts, food, com-

puter games, and "Playground Olympics" for ages 5 to 12. Live entertainment will include Irish step dancing, family bands, the Purple Moon Dance Project, and the San Francisco Police Department's Lion Dancing team.

And for the forward-thinking among us, the festival coordinated by the nonprofit All Our Families Coalition will include an 11 a.m. news conference on the future of LGBT family rights. Panelists include Jean Harris of the California Alliance for Pride and Equality, Toni Broddus representing the No on Knight campaign, Jerek Jentsch of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, and Chloe Watts of the American Civil Liberties Union. The speakers will address and discuss different strategies for progress to equal rights, including domestic partnership enhancements, civil unions, marriage, and electing pro-family candidates to public office.

"I can think of no better time

or place than Family Day to strengthen our resolve to end homophobia against our families and children," said Cheryl Deaner, executive director of the All Our Families Coalition. "California has more lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender couples and families than any other state in the nation."

This year's workshops include "Considering Parenthood," "African American Gays and Lesbians Advocating for Ourselves and Our Children," and the "COLAGE Teen Panel."

Festival proceeds will benefit the All Our Families Coalition, Children of Lesbians and Gay Everywhere, the NIA Collective, and Our Family, an LGBT family group. Admission for families is \$10, adults are \$5, and kids are free. Adults who volunteer for an hour also get in free.

The festival welcomes everyone, regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, or political persuasion.

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Can't live without them: PAWS summit addresses the animal-human health link

by Katie Szymanski

As some city regulations become less pet-friendly, it's heartening to know that one organization helps people with debilitating illnesses care for and keep their animals. Pets Are Wonderful Support not only makes daily life easier for people with AIDS and cancer, it educates the public on the very real need for fuzzy companions, as demonstrated by the upcoming PAWS summit, "The Healing Power of the Human-Animal Bond: Lessons Learned from the AIDS Epidemic," on October 20 and 21 in San Francisco.

Beginning next Friday and continuing through Saturday, the summit will feature a series of workshops and forums on topics from the emotional and physiological aspects of the human-animal bond, to legal and ethical issues around keeping pets during an illness, to the evolution of human-animal support service organizations and the practical guidelines these services must im-

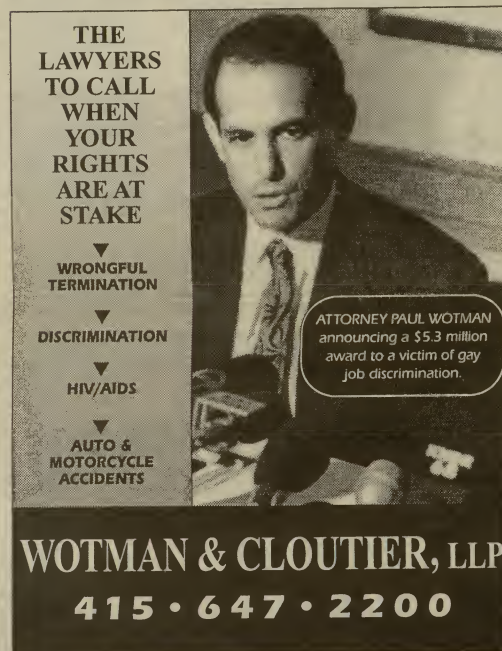
plement. Speakers will include Fred Angulo, veterinarian and medical epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Susan McElroy, author of *Animals as Teacher and Healers*; Caroline Schaffer, veterinarian and winner of the Human-Animal Bond Veterinarian of the Year Award; and Marty Becker, a veterinarian who will speak on the therapeutic qualities of animals.

The summit will attract people from all over the country, bringing together representatives from humane organizations, AIDS service organizations, veterinary medical associations, and allied healthcare to learn how to better promote the evolution of new and improved human-animal support services throughout the Bay Area and beyond. Individuals in attendance will develop skills, gather information, and network with other professionals to develop common goals to ensure the human-animal bond is recognized as valuable across all disciplines.

The event takes place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel near Union

Square. On Friday, conference registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and a continental breakfast is served until 9. The first sessions begin at 9:15 a.m. On Saturday, Becker launches the day with "Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul," at 8:30 a.m., and the general sessions begin once again at 9:15 a.m. Participants choose which topics interest them during each session, from "Healthy Pets Are Healthy People: An update from Durban," to "Animals and Spirituality," to "Service Animals Workshop: Animal-Assisted Therapy." On Saturday, as an added bonus, there will be a Halloween costume party for humans and their pets, sponsored by the SPCA.

Admission to the conference is \$90 for one day and \$175 for both days; the costume ball and lunch are included in both of those prices. Some scholarships may still be available to those who qualify. For more information on the summit, call (415) 241-1460 or click the hyperlink banner at the top of the PAWS Web site at www.pawssf.org. ▼



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Oliver death ruled drug-related

by Terry Beswick

The San Francisco Medical Examiner's office has completed its investigation into the cause of death of Curtis Richard Oliver Jr., who died July 6 after experiencing a medical emergency while staying at a temporary homeless youth shelter at the Metropolitan Community Church in San Francisco.

The 25-year-old Arkansas native's death was determined to be accidental, according to the Medical Examiner's office, and was caused by an overdose of a morphine-related drug, such as heroin.

The case is now closed, and the complete report is available from the Medical Examiner's office for a fee. ▼



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Examining DPH

"... SF ACT UP and their supporters have used the Bay Area Reporter articles to support their position that HIV does not cause AIDS, that the HIV epidemic is over, and that AIDS funding to San Francisco should be decreased. ... I refuse to allow my staff to be used to further the SF ACT UP movement of denial, misrepresentation, and harassment. Therefore, effective immediately the Department of Public Health will respond to the B.A.R. questions only in writing ..."

— Dr. Mitchell Katz, in an October 10 letter to the Bay Area Reporter.

Due to the department's perception that officials believe they are being cast in an unfavorable light, the San Francisco Department of Public Health has changed the way it will deal with the Bay Area Reporter.

From now on, the department will answer our questions only in writing. This may mean that our readers will have to wait to receive vital information until Health Director Dr. Mitchell Katz and others can carefully word their sentences and ensure that they contain accurate information. If only this policy were in effect in June for DPH dealings with the mainstream media.

It has been more than three months since DPH released its "900 new infections," referring to an HIV surge in San Francisco, to the *San Francisco Chronicle*. These numbers were reported everywhere from the *New York Times* to the *Washington Post*, and were broadcast as an indicator of what the nation could expect for its dreary future.

Since then, our DPH officials have backpedaled in the pages of the B.A.R. and re-released rates that now estimate 500-600 new infection cases, attributing the original report to a "media leak" and calling their comments "unfortunate." Yet across the country, national news sources are still using the "900 new infections" quote as fact, a situation with which DPH seems relatively unconcerned.

In his full letter to the B.A.R., part of

which is quoted above, Dr. Katz alleges "misquotes" in many of our articles. Yet he does not cite a single incident in which he believes this has occurred. Additionally, DPH spokeswoman Eileen Shields agreed that there wasn't any misinformation in B.A.R. stories and declined to take assistant editor Katie Szymanski up on her offer to review several voice messages from the department still saved on our system.

"It's not the quotes," Shields told the B.A.R. "It's how they're used."

It comes as no surprise that the department is tired of our critical stories directed toward its continuous inaccuracies regarding HIV infection rates and a "surge" of male rectal gonorrhea incidence among men who have sex with men. We're tired of writing them. Yet because other news outlets are happy to report inflated figures

while simultaneously blaming irresponsible gay sex practices, we have asked that for the sake of these gay men, the true and accurate rates be released instead. But DPH's anger toward our persistent coverage has translated into a meritless crusade to render themselves blameless for their false statements and their unwillingness to correct these statements on a larger scale.

Moreover, DPH officials are hiding behind the ACT UP/San Francisco name in an attempt to discredit our reports, believing that by linking the B.A.R. with groups that are widely viewed as untrustworthy, the department can easily dismiss our criticism of its own serious failures. But the fact is that this paper has not been in contact with ACT UP/SF or any other group in preparing our stories about DPH infection rates. In fact, when it comes to being portrayed as unreliable, DPH has no one to blame but itself.

The B.A.R. has never advocated that HIV does not cause AIDS, and frankly, we find it



Dr. Mitch Katz

puzzling that Dr. Katz can make that leap. Nor have we said that there hasn't been a rise in HIV infections. We do, however, maintain that statements about infection rates have repeatedly been issued and retracted by the department, a habit which does not suit the needs of the community that DPH is supposed to serve.

The B.A.R. is not going to be scared into silence by DPH media policy changes that once again place mainstream

interests above the concerns of the LGBT community. The department is a public body, accountable to the people, and no DPH tactic will change the fact that it is open to scrutiny and criticism. Pretending that it is concerned about HIV denial in a thinly veiled attempt to link the B.A.R. with "fringe" movements won't do it. Falsely fingering the B.A.R. for helping to promote unsafe sex won't do it. In fact there is only one way for DPH to escape the criticism it has endured from this paper for the last few months: tell the truth.

We are still waiting for the full report on the DPH-declared male rectal gonorrhea surge. Just days after pointing to these increased infections, DPH removed these rates from its monthly sexually transmitted disease report. It took two months for us to receive a verbal response about the accurate male rectal gonorrhea rates for the month of July, and since then we have requested information on exactly where the rectal gonorrhea rate has surged. As soon as DPH has finished documenting everything in writing, we will release those numbers to the public.

In the meantime, you don't have to oppose safer sex or federal AIDS funding to ask that correct information about the state of public health is released in a timely manner to those most affected by the statistics. DPH may change its media policy for B.A.R. stories as much as it wants to, but it won't change the fact that it still has a lot of explaining to do. ▼

Prop. D helps the community

by Brian Cheu

The lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community should be proud to support Proposition D — an amendment to the San Francisco City Charter that dedicates a small, but important, portion of the budget to services for the city's children and youth.

Initially passed in 1991 and now up for renewal, this charter amendment made San Francisco the first city in the country to guarantee funding for children and youth each year in the city budget. Many cities have since followed our lead.

Proposition D ensures that .5 percent of the budget will be used to create a Children's Fund. Last year the fund supported 180 community programs throughout the city serving over 80,000 youth. Programs funded include services for homeless youth, after-school and cultural programs, child care, job training, educational enrichment, and health care.

One of the success stories of the Children's Fund has been the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, a community-based agency serving LGBTQ youth since 1988. LYRIC was the dream of a dedicated group of youth activists and allies. They wanted to see a service for LGBTQ youth, much like services for other youth, that did not require a young person to have "problems" before having a comfortable, fun place to go. When LYRIC finally opened its doors, it relied on a handful of volunteers. Like many youth services, it was a fragile effort that might have folded without stable funding. Then the Children's Fund was passed by the voters, and suddenly there was a pot of money set aside in the city to adequately fund youth programs. LYRIC

became one of the first beneficiaries of the fund.

Today LYRIC continues to receive support for core programs such as its after school program, its toll-free youth hotline, and its job training program, from the Children's Fund. As is the case with most of the programs funded, these steady city dollars have enabled LYRIC to attract foundation grants, as well as state and private dollars. There is no doubt that it is the Children's Fund that has allowed LYRIC to thrive and to become a model for the country. Along with the programs mentioned above, LYRIC now offers specific programming for young women, young men, and transgender youth; educational support services; a leadership program; and arts and media programming. Over 600 young people attend our annual Young, Loud & Proud conference each summer, and over 25,000 young people call our talkline each year.

Many queer youth come to LYRIC and feel that it has transformed their lives. Jackson is typical of the over 1,200 youth who come through our doors every year: "Before I came to LYRIC, I thought nobody cared about me, and I didn't care about anybody, because my family didn't care about me. Then I came here and I learned that there are people who care about me, even if they're not related to me. When I wasn't going to school the staff used to talk to me about it, even though I said I don't need to go to school. It made me feel like they cared about what I did. Just because your family doesn't care about you doesn't mean no one will."

Other programs that receive money from the Children's Fund that specifically

serve queer youth include: Bay Area Young Positives, Community United Against Violence, the Center for Young Women's Development, New Village, Castro Mission Health Center, Health Initiatives for Youth, Legal Services for Children and the Harvey Milk Institute.

These services are still critically needed for queer young people throughout our city. Unfortunately, many young people still face rejection from their families and their friends when and if they find the courage to come out. Many of our young people are also struggling to overcome barriers posed by society's racism, sexism, and economic disadvantage. Their access to an equal education is often blocked, and their traditional support systems are frequently non-existent.

Poet James Baldwin spoke for all humanity when he said, "They are all our children. We will all profit by, or pay for, whatever they become." That is why leadership across the LGBTQ community has endorsed Proposition D. Our city's two major LGBTQ political clubs, our elected officials, and our community activists agree — Proposition D makes San Francisco a better place for all of us.

In November, we will have the opportunity to send a message to City Hall: this is a city that cares deeply about the future generation. A strong yes vote on Proposition D will ensure that the benefits of the Children's Fund continue, and will tell those without a vote that they can depend on the rest of us to protect their interests. ▼

Brian Cheu is the executive director of LYRIC.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Out for Alameda council seat

I'm writing as a candidate for the City Council of Alameda to seek the support of my fellow (and sister) lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, and questioning residents of the city of Alameda. After it was publicized that my friend Danny Wan was selected to fill the opening on the Oakland City Council, several folks approached me to point out that if I were to succeed in my effort to achieve a seat on Alameda's council, our community would be well-represented in the East Bay.

As of this writing, the cities of Berkeley, Emeryville, Hayward, and Oakland have openly gay or lesbian representation. If Rebecca Kaplan achieves her effort in Oakland, then both she and Danny would have strong, progressive voices and be openly gay. Should I achieve my election to the City Council in Alameda, all of the major cities of the East Bay except San Leandro would have openly gay and lesbian representation – and perhaps we could present a different face on inclusiveness. Even though I am an openly gay person and quite progressive, I have achieved the support of the Democratic, Republican and Green Party leadership of this area.

The next few years are likely to be instrumental in putting our struggles for civic and humanitarian unity on the map of success. But it will not happen unless our voices are heard loudly and clearly in the coming November 7 election.

Share this fact of life with your friends and associates. It matters what we do in choosing our future leaders. And I could use your support.

Allan Shore, Candidate
Alameda City Council

Fair play

This is an open letter to Steve Gaynes, of the Castro Street Fair:

I'm sure you'll be receiving even more accolades than this for your most recent efforts on behalf of not only the LGBT community but also the entire Castro community itself. I commend you and Patrick Batt, among others, whose tireless efforts have ensured that a reasonable portion of money earned from Castro-area events is returned in various ways to the community.

After a two-year absence from street fair participation, I felt led to do Reiki and massage for donations to the San Francisco Church of Religious Science. Our booth banner read "Promoting diversity harmony." This is exhortated and practiced in SFCRS and I sensed this harmonious atmosphere pervaded the entire Castro fair. Even the music from Castro and Market wasn't at a deafening-loud volume nor did it have that steady frantic disco beat that has permeated past fairs and produced hoarseness from shouting to be heard. The Detour waited until later in the afternoon to start playing music at a decent level. I stress this and trust you will pass it on to other boards. At the Folsom Street Fair, one bar put speakers on the sidewalk in front. As soon as they started the music, they immediately cranked up the volume. As a result, people who had been casually strolling and visiting various booths began streaming in the direction of the loud music and began dancing en masse. Many booths were completely ignored so no sales were made to defer the booth space costs by the vendors whose participation enables street fairs to continue.

Thanks for promoting and providing another wonderful day, Steve. You did yourself proud.

Glenn Schmall
Fort Bragg, California

Castro arts and craps fair

According to the B.A.R.'s front page article on the Castro Street Fair, September 28, last year \$60,000 was raised to benefit "the community."

In the October 5 Bay Area Reporter, a front page photo caption states that \$46,417 was raised this year for "the community." Up 10 percent over 1999?

Now that's very "fuzzy math." With 250,000 people in attendance, a great deal of money went into a great many pockets. Personally, I'm sick and tired of this commercial organization exploiting the Castro area population, regardless of our sexual persuasion, for their profit, especially in the guise of a "Harvey Milk tradition."

You do the math.

Frank Nelson
San Francisco

Prop. N saves tenants

It's with interest that I read in last week's letters that Proposition N is homophobic. What a joke! Proposition N will save thousands of tenants from being evicted, including many, many queers. It closes loopholes in the current condo conversion law that allow real estate speculators to evict the tenants from a building in order to make big bucks in a short amount of time selling those units as condos. This year alone nearly a thousand people were evicted from this type of condo conversion.

To argue that Proposition N prevents people from becoming homeowners is also ridiculous: The simple

fact is that, according to all studies, 90 percent of San Franciscans cannot afford the average TIC. Proposition N is not about sexual orientation, it is about saving tenants from being evicted, it's about saving our homes, all of us, queer and straight. It's about keeping San Francisco for all of the people, not just rich folks.

The sad reality is that for tenants, including those of us who are queer, being evicted means leaving the city. So if there's a queer angle in Proposition N, it's this: without it, thousands of queers will be forced to leave San Francisco.

Tommi Avicolli Mecca
San Francisco

Show compassion to animals

Hopefully, after the November election, the new members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors will show a little more compassion for animals than some of their predecessors.

Of the current board members running for reelection, only Tom Ammann, Mark Leno, and Gavin Newsom voted to ban calf roping and steer wrestling from the city limits.

And after six years of often contentious debate, despite the recommendation of its own Animal Welfare Commission and broad public support, not one of the current board would do anything about the deplorable conditions in the city's live animal markets. Diseased and parasitized foods, turtles, and other animals continue to be sold for food, endangering public health, and inhumane and unsanitary conditions abound.

Supervisory candidates should go on record regarding these and other animal welfare issues prior to Election Day, preferably without playing the "race card," as has so often been the case in the past, and means us all.

In a city named for the patron saint of animals, with an SPCA boasting a membership of some 91,000, it seems only fitting that San Francisco's political establishment should reflect the citizenry's abiding concern for animals.

Eric Mills, Coordinator
Action For Animals
Oakland, California

Lavender in name only

Recently, the Alice B. Toklas Club began sending out absentee political mailers touting its "lavender slate." A closer look at this slate will suggest that it is lavender in name only.

Alice's lavender slate mailers betray a lack of concern for the many LGBT people who earn modest or meager incomes and who now find they are being priced out of their adopted home by rampant greed and indifference. These LGBT folk apparently do not count in the eyes of Alice's leadership, as they sell the endorsement of their club to the highest bidder.

This November, Alice opposes Proposition N, which would end the eviction crisis caused by Ellis Act evictions by real estate speculators. Alice also opposes Proposition L, the neighborhood proposal to stop displacement from illegal development, and supports Proposition K, the mayor's giveaway to downtown developers. Alice also supports Proposition M, yet another attempt by big taxicab companies to take taxi medallions away from drivers and give them to Yellow Cab and other corporations.

Apparently, Alice will act as a channel for hundreds of thousands of dollars from downtown special interests in district elections, just as they did during the mayor's race. A recent Alice fundraiser invitation includes these co-sponsors: SF Taxi Association, PG&E, AT&T, HMS Associates, and Forest City Development. With sponsors like these, it's not hard to see why Alice supports positions which hurt ordinary LGBT voters, while supporting candidates like Mark Leno, Juanita Owens, Chris Dittenehafer, and Michael Yaki, who rubber-stamp the mayor's big business agenda.

Given such behavior by its leaders, perhaps they ought to be called the Alice B. Toklas "Corporate" Democratic Club.

Jerry Threet, PAC Co-chair
Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

What was John Paulk doing?

This is in response to the "You never know who you'll meet" editorial in the September 28 Bay Area Reporter.

Whatever explanation John Paulk offers for being in the vicinity of 22nd and P streets in Washington, D.C., is unlikely to be true. This is not an area where an "ex-gay" is supposed to be in, unless it is done in an attempt to attain the objectives of Exodus International.

I would have to say that Mr. Paulk's visit to Mr. P's bar has no effect on how I view Focus on the Family. It is my own personal opinion that those people who do not wish to be gay should not be engaging in homosexual activity.

If Mr. Paulk is still "struggling with homosexuality" then that is his problem, not mine. I would not accept the premise that homosexuality is wrong.

next page ►

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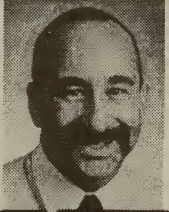
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Mailstrom

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I would doubt that Mr. Paulk views the "ex-gay" movement as a fraud, but some of his own personal opinions I would very much disagree with.

Robert V. Wood
San Francisco

No on Knight supports CAPE

I was sorry to read the misleading account of the status of the remaining No on Knight resources in your September 14 issue ["CAPE fear"]. The California Alliance for Pride and Equality has been working closely with No on Knight both before and after the election this past March. The No on Knight board has been extremely supportive of CAPE by providing substantial financial support to the organization. In fact, to date No on Knight has given CAPE \$160,000 of its leftover funds. CAPE has an ambitious legislative and organizing agenda for our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered community in California. The funding and support CAPE has received from No on Knight will play a critical role in how successfully CAPE achieves its goals. CAPE will continue to work hand in hand with No on Knight and other community partners throughout the state to assure that LGBT Californians benefit from more substantial and sweeping civil rights gains over the next several years.

Jan Harris, Executive Director
California Alliance for Pride and Equality

[Editor's note: None of the September 14 article's claims — that CAPE would not get all the No on Knight money — are misleading. See story, page 2.]

Library needs critics

Why does James W. Haas [Mailstrom, September 28] fail to mention the lack of space for books, poor signage problems, and various building design flaws that have plagued the San Francisco Main Library and its users since the much ballyhooed opening in 1996? Could it be that Mr. Haas just wants to spin more positive PR for the Friends and Foundation, while attempting to divert San Francisco voters' attention away from the real problem issues that exist with the New Main while the Friends and Foundation have been essentially running things?

It is not "hated for the New Main Library and the library system" as you say Mr. Haas, that makes individuals want to speak out at Library Commission meetings on behalf of an institution they truly care about, but actually a motivation quite the opposite. If anything, Mr. Haas, these "library naysayers" (the term you use repeatedly with tiresome effect to put down those who dare to speak out) are exactly the kind of "constructive critics" you say the library needs. Shame on you Mr. Haas for using such negative and hateful rhetoric against a group who speak the truth as they, and many others, see it.

Steve Bruce
San Francisco

Printing ad was a public service

You may receive some criticism for publishing ACT UP/San Francisco's ad, headlined, "Don't Trust AIDS Incl.," but I believe you have done a public service by printing it. The ad's language illustrates this group's true nature far better than anything its opponents could have said.

Readers interested in knowing what the published scientific data actually says about the effects of anti-HIV treatment on survival and AIDS death rates can refer to AIDS Treatment News' special issue on the subject: Issue number 350, September 8, 2000. It is available online at www.aidsnews.org.

Bruce Mirken
San Francisco

Evil propaganda

Competent graphic design executed for the purpose of spreading misinformation that motivates people to commit self-destructive acts is no longer competent, nor even bad, graphic design. It is simply evil propaganda in the service of one's own psychic shadow, projected onto the masses with criminal disregard for the consequences. It is a psychotic reaction to a health crisis that sadly conflicts with our impulse to intimacy. But conflict it does and it is criminally irresponsible to deny the crisis or destructive power of HIV. Even Hitler had competent graphic artists to justify the oppressive tyranny of the Third Reich. If enough suggestible people subscribe to ACT UP/San Francisco's propaganda, where will it lead? I posit that it would decimate our community in a second AIDS-STD scourge and possibly establish vectors for a host of newly evolving diseases.

Who can say what murky motivations cause ACT UP/SF to live in the shadowy and creepy world of denial that they inhabit? But as HIV infection rates climb (at whatever rate) as well as those of other diseases which can destroy lives (do they deny hepatitis

A, B, and C and other diseases as well?), it is a vain wish that their posterized "hip" rebellion — which, I posit, masks a subtext of criminal disregard for those they wish to save — could be limited to their own groovy little cult.

Self-destruction under the guise of salvation, this is what ACT UP/SF offers to the gay community. It is very brave of them to "not be intimidated" by those who would resist their agenda of evil, which I might add has parallels with the official attitude of that great "champion" of the gay community, Scientology, toward AIDS, i.e., it doesn't exist except in our own minds.

If it is their conscious or unconscious agenda, their "AIDS is over" exhortations are, quite simply, a form of bio-terrorism by which they influence people to participate in unsafe sexual behaviors that increase the general disease pool. Even if AIDS was over, if even one person becomes infected with any disease due to their exhortations, they are ethically, if not criminally, responsible.

Rex Smythe
San Francisco

Vandalism reported

On September 28, three offices of the Stop AIDS Project were vandalized. The front doors were plastered with copies of the ACT UP/San Francisco ad which came out later that day in the *Bay Area Reporter*. The Stop AIDS Project is a nonprofit agency that provides programs to gay and bisexual men to help us build community and prevent HIV/AIDS transmissions. This vandalism was reported to the police, and we will support the Stop AIDS Project pursuing legal action. AIDS Activists Against Violence and Lies will continue reporting to the community all acts of violence related to ACT UP/San Francisco. Over 320 have now signed the pledge demanding an end to ACT UP/San Francisco's violent tactics. If you would like to join the pledge, e-mail BoycottActUpSF@aol.com or call 252-8306.

Ellen Goldstein, Steve Lew, Gavin Morrow-Hall
AIDS Activists Against Violence and Lies

Squashing alternative views

The full-page ad in the September 21 *Bay Area Reporter* encouraging violence against another group was a well thought out, linguistic piece of work. The ad cleverly implies that ACT UP/San Francisco should be silenced under the veil of denouncing ACT UP/SF's violence. I even got a strong feeling from reading the ad that it was intentionally building up tensions, anger, hatred, and resentment, which could be construed as harassment.

The difference between ACT UP/SF and other AIDS service organizations is that one consistently knows where ACT UP/SF stands with their beliefs and viewpoints. Whereas these other groups tend to change their minds and spin on their heels in a heartbeat.

An example of this is the recent hypocrisy and conflict of interest happening within the HIV Prevention Planning Council and the Stop AIDS Project concerning their members/employees who unquestionably and admittedly bareback, which was conveniently swept under the carpet and spun into stories about the subject of barebacking. Talk about covering one another's backsides.

Thank goodness for Mitch Katz, Willi McFarland, and Tom Coates. Because according to their HIV surges, which are based on estimates, projections, and statistics, this would mean that there are more gay men involved in barebacking within these same ASOs, other than Vince Gaither and Keith Folger, who are regularly espousing the safe sex mantra that they do not follow.

These are also the same group of people who during Christine Maggiore's recent forum sliced up and dumped a bunch of her books in the men's room trash can, screamed at her during the question and answer period, and clapped loudly when Mark Wainberg suggested that dissidents be thrown in jail for their viewpoints. There were also representatives of these same groups who ACT UP/SF graciously allowed to pass out flyers of the mainstream HIV/AIDS viewpoint.

These are definitely Wainbergian type followers who seriously recommend people with alternative viewpoints as being dangerous and to be locked away. These are also copycats of the Durbin Declaration that reflects a lot of people signing on to something that most of them have no understanding or the ability to critically analyze but tend to be led around by the nose ring.

Who is fooling whom about the use of violence through bullying, intimidation, and actual physical contact? Sounds like some of these people who sponsored this ad have something to hide.

Steven D. Keller
San Francisco

Send letters to the *Bay Area Reporter*, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Letters must be signed, and include an address and daytime phone number for verification purposes only. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

POLITICS

Where Gore and Bush stand on gay issues

by Wayne Friday

Though political partisans of **George W. Bush**, particularly gay and lesbian Republicans, will never admit it, when it comes to issues especially important to the gay community, Vice President **Al Gore** is far and away the better candidate in this presidential election.

With less than four weeks until the November 7 election, and with the Gore-Bush contest now seen as one of the closest presidential races in decades, the country's gay and lesbian voters become even more important as they choose between one of the two eventual winners, Gore or Bush. This presidential election is most crucial for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community, in great part because the next president will likely appoint three, if not four, of the country's next U. S. Supreme Court justices.

Gore would most assuredly appoint justices more friendly toward equality for gays while Bush proudly points to the arch-conservative **Antonin Scalia** and **Clarence Thomas** as being the type of justices he most admires. Both Scalia and Thomas have repeatedly demonstrated, by their votes,

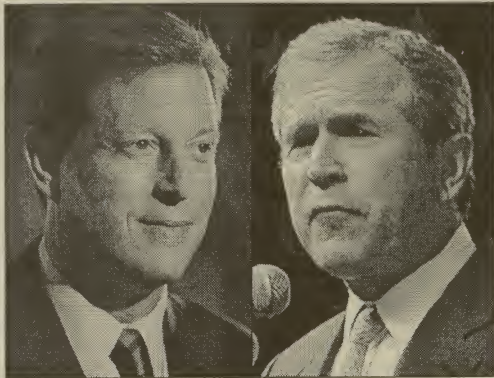
their disdain for gay rights. The likelihood that the next president will get the chance to reshape the Supreme Court and the very fact that those newly appointed justices could overturn any or all current laws friendly to the rights of gays is the main reason, in my mind, that the gay and lesbian community, regardless of party affiliation, must *not* elect Bush president next month.

So, how do Gore and Bush compare on other issues important to the LGBT community? Let's take a look. On the important issue of appointments, the Clinton-Gore administration has appointed more than 150 gays and lesbians to executive and judicial offices and Gore pledges that, if elected, he will continue this legacy. On the other hand, when Bush was asked earlier this year (February 20) about appointing gay people to public office, he replied: "An openly known homosexual is somebody who probably wouldn't share my philosophy," indicating he was prone not to appoint such people to public office.

The vice president supports eliminating the military's current "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and allowing homosexuals to openly serve in the country's military. Governor Bush, however, opposes allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military and says the current DADT policy is sufficient.

On another issue of great importance, Gore supports the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and will continue the 1998 landmark executive order against discrimination in the federal civilian workforce. Bush refused to adopt a non-discrimination policy inclusive of sexual orientation as Texas governor; Bush also has refused to endorse ENDA.

On AIDS/HIV, Gore has repeatedly fought for expanded medical coverage for people with



Democrat Al Gore, left, and Republican George W. Bush.

HIV/AIDS, including legislation to protect individuals — once they are able to return to work — from losing their federal health benefits. Bush is opposed to key HIV/AIDS prevention efforts, including those targeted toward providing information on safe sex to young Americans.

Another issue of importance is the one of gay adoption. Gore fully supports delegating gay adoption decisions to adoption professionals on a case-by-case basis; Gore believes that adoption decisions should be made in the best interest of the child and not based on prejudice. Gore also supports extending benefits that married couples receive to domestic partners. Bush says: "I'm against gay adoptions." Bush also supports the Texas sodomy law as a symbolic gesture of "traditional values," indicating his disbelief in the legitimacy of gay relationships.

On the growing issue of anti-gay violence, the two candidates differ pointedly. Gore declares that "violence against gays and lesbians must end now; as president, I will continue to fight for enactment of a hate crimes law which includes sexual orientation." As governor of his state, in 1999, Bush opposed adding "sexual orientation" to Texas' hate crimes law.

Indeed, only last week a Republican-controlled U.S. Senate conference committee, controlled by Bush supporters, openly thwarted Democratic attempts to expand federal hate crimes protection for gays through a defense bill, thereby likely destroying any chance of its passage in this congressional session. The provisions that the Bush Republicans in Congress stripped from the defense authorization bill last week would have extended federal civil rights protection to violent crimes involving gender and sexual orientation and would have made it easier for the federal government to intervene in such cases.

Vowing not to be turned back by the Republicans in Congress, Democrats this week promised to continue pushing for passage of the hate crimes legislation, possibly as part of a huge, catchall bill at the end of the session. "If the national outcry continues to get loud enough, we still might have a slight chance to act on this issue in the remaining days of this Con-

gress," said Senator **Edward Kennedy** (D-Massachusetts), a chief sponsor of the hate crimes proposal.

However, the Republican leaders in charge of both the Senate and the House of Representatives declared again this week that they oppose passing the legislation in any form. Indeed, Senate Majority Leader **Trent Lott** (R-Mississippi) issued a statement saying that he believes "it should not be made a matter of federal law to designate one group of crimes and its victims [read: homosexuals] less important than others."

Now comes the real question for Bush and his gay and lesbian supporters. One has to ask simply why Bush, with perhaps a slight nudge from those gay and lesbian Log Cabin Republicans (who have endorsed him and credit him for "reaching out") didn't simply intervene with those GOP congressional leaders on this important hate crimes issue. But, not a word. Surprising? Well, it shouldn't be since these very same gay Republicans have long ago proved they care more about partisan politics than they do about gay rights. Indeed, a gay Republican columnist for this paper wrote only last week that under Gore's administration we would likely get "four more years of Democratic excuse-making." Even that would be better, however, than the silence we continue to get from Bush and his gay allies on an issue of such importance as hate crimes laws for gays.

The main reason that we should vote for Al Gore for president next month? One only has to take a quick look at what George W. Bush offers — the man opposes gay civil unions, gay adoptions, gays in the military, defends his own state's sodomy statute, and worst of all, continues to oppose hate crimes legislation. And the Log Cabin gays credit Bush for "reaching out"? Reaching out to whom? **Jesse Helms**, **Lott**, **Pat Robertson**, **Jerry Falwell**, and **Bob Jones**? Wake up folks — particularly you never-say-die gay and lesbian Republicans. This presidential election is about our very survival. We are only digging our heads into the sand to think otherwise. Al Gore, faults and all, is the *only* choice that LGBT Americans have on November 7. It's as simple as that.

Politics and people

The *San Francisco Chronicle* this week endorsed **Juanita Owens** for supervisor in District
page 20 ►

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What was sexual inversion?

by Wik Wikholm

Today, the American Psychiatric Association warns against therapies designed to change sexual orientation and has held for more than 25 years that homosexuality is psychologically normal. Yet, during an earlier era, most psychiatrists believed that homosexuality was a mental illness.

German psychiatrist Karl Westphal created the first diagnosis for same-sex desire in an 1869 article in a German psychiatric journal. At the time he was writing, sex between men was illegal and was believed to be the result of depravity. Westphal broke new ground when he argued that same-sex desire was not a moral failure, but the result of a mental illness. Westphal based his conclusions on case studies of one female and one male patient.

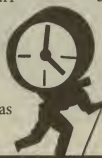
The female case was a woman who had thought of herself as boyish since she was a child. She remembered that she objected to the frilly dresses her mother told her to wear and preferred pants. When playtime came, she rough-housed with the boys instead of playing house and learning to cook like other girls. As an adult she avoided marriage and was only attracted to other women. The male patient was like the female patient, but in reverse. He wanted to wear the frilly dresses the female patient hated, and he remembered himself as a girlish boy. He, too, never had any sexual interest in a member of the opposite sex.

Westphal wrote that both subjects suffered from the same congenital disease. He called it "contrary sexual feeling," but within a few years the term became "sexual inversion," a result of a series of mistranslations from Westphal's German. In Westphal's opinion, the patients he studied were physically normal members of their respective sexes, but they were psychologically constituted like members of the opposite sex, and this inborn anomaly explained all same-sex attraction. (Doctors in the 19th century did not recognize a difference between homosexuality and transsexuality.)

Sexual inversion was new to psychiatry, but it was not really new. In fact, Westphal borrowed most of his theory from German lawyer Karl Heinrich Ulrichs. Since the early 1860s, Ulrichs had been publishing pamphlets about

"Urnings," people he claimed had a "female mind in a male body," to explain his own sexual feelings. Ulrichs believed that if the German people learned about his theory that Urning desire was inborn, they would see that incarcerating Urnings was wrong.

At first, Ulrichs welcomed Westphal's article because it advanced his congenital theory and opposed jailing inverters. But sexual inversion had a dark side that ultimately led Ulrichs to repudiate the psychiatrist's findings. In spite of a long debate between the two men, Westphal would not agree that inversion was natural, as Ulrichs argued, but insisted that almost all inverters were severely mentally ill.

**Past Out**

Westphal was a respected physician, and his sickness model prevailed. In Germany, Austria, and France, many physicians diagnosed their patients as inverters and wrote articles about their cases. Surprisingly, many men who read the medical articles identified with the diagnosis and even called themselves inverters. Self-described inverters were searching for an understanding of themselves that broke with the common sense view that they were depraved sinners who belonged in jail. With no other choices, inversion seemed the most attractive identity to many, even though it implied mental illness.

Still, some people who were called inverters by doctors resented the label, and others worked to redefine the word and make it less pejorative. In 1896, Marc Andre Raffalovich launched an angry attack on inversion in his book, *Uranism and Unisexuality*. He wrote that inversion was such a preposterous idea that he would not even use the word. Instead, he coined "unisexual," a term that never caught on. Raffalovich argued that congenital unisexuality was masculine by nature, and that effeminacy was a not a sign of unisexuality, but of depravity.

In the same year, a much more influential book titled *Sexual Inversion*, by physician Havelock Ellis and scholar John Addington Symonds, an invert himself, did not abandon inversion, but redefined it. According to Ellis and Symonds, inversion was not a mental illness, but a normal hereditary variation. *Sexual Inver-*

sion was the first medical text that showed that inverters could be masculine or feminine and that they lived productive, often happy lives.

Early in the 20th century, Westphal's diagnosis was eclipsed by the theories of Sigmund Freud. According to his 1905 *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*, people come in many combinations, including feminine heterosexuals and masculine homosexuals, depending on their upbringing, not their genes. As Freud's point of view won out over older psychiatric approaches, Westphal's theory was all but forgotten, though most of Freud's followers agreed with Westphal that homosexuality was a mental disease.

Today, Westphal and Ulrichs's "male mind in a female body" and vice versa seems a better description of transgender than homosexual experience, but the distinction between transgender and gay identities is a 20th century development that did not occur to the theorists of inversion. ▼

Wik Wikholm produces gayhistory.com, an introduction to modern gay history. He can be reached on the site's discussion boards, or by e-mail at wik@gayhistory.com. For more Past Out, visit www.planetout.com.

Suggested reading

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Props H and N

◀ page 3

ants' Union's steering committee.

Proposition N would require that TICs and other condos sneaking through the law be subject to the same 200 annual limit that applies to the present definition of condominiums. Those 200 conversions are chosen by lottery, so building owners have no guarantee that their condo profits will be immediate.

"Right now," said Avicoli Mecca, "it's a quick profit, a way to make millions in a weekend by evicting tenants and soliciting new owners. But if TICs are subject to the same lottery system, it won't be profitable to evict those tenants. If you can't make instant money there's less incentive to evict those tenants and wait for the lottery."

Avicoli Mecca cautions against believing the argument that limiting tenancies in common will give tenants fewer options to buy their own property.

"It's already in the books that tenants should be offered first pick at the proposed units, but 90 percent of our city's renters cannot afford them," he said. "Mostly those units go to people moving in from outside the city, displacing our long-term residents."

If Propositions H and N pass, say activists, it will translate into fewer evictions and perhaps even keep this city from its rapid trend toward one-dimensionalism.

Those interested in volunteering for precinct walking and literature drops for pro-tenant ballot initiatives should show up at the Tenants' Union at 11 a.m. this weekend at 558 Capp Street between 21st and Mission. ▼

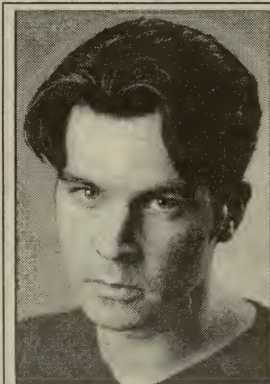
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COMMENTARY

More controversy at Michigan Womyn's Fest

by Paula Martinac

The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival is at the center of controversy again, but not over transgendered women, as in past years. Several right wing groups claim that children may have witnessed adult public sex during the August festival, which, according to state law, constitutes child abuse. Because conservatives never tire of invoking "innocent children" in their campaign against all kinds of social change, the lesbian and gay community needs to think seriously about how kids figure into our events.

Right wingers don't just single out lesbians and gay men for attack where children are concerned, although we're one of their favorite targets. Welfare mothers and other "unfit" parents also set off right wing alarms. In one outrageous

example from last spring, Cynthia Stewart, a straight mother living in Ohio, found herself facing 16 years in prison for taking photos of her prepubescent daughter in the bathtub. The pictures were for a family album, but a local photo processing lab reported her as a potential child pornographer.

Ironically, many of the same conservatives who express such great concern about the well-being of "innocent children" also oppose welfare and universal health care. Their opposition to sex education in schools and to abortion rights threatens to bring more unwanted and uncared-for children into the world. Instead of supporting laws that could actually help children, right wing activists look for scapegoats to blame for the collapse of the so-called traditional family.

The stereotype of lesbians and gay men as child molesters still persists, so we fit the scapegoat bill perfectly. This summer, one right wing journalist lurking on the bulletin boards of the Michigan festival's Web site (www.mich-fest.com) found a wealth of ammunition.

In a sensational article for Americans for Truth (www.americansfortruth.com), Allyson Smith quoted juicy posts from the Michigan bulletin boards, in which festival attendees enter-

tained each other with stories of their feats of public sex. Smith juxtaposed these posts with others from women who expressed serious reservations about public sex acts that they encountered at the festival and that they thought children, too, might have witnessed. The local chapter of the American Family Association jumped at the chance to bring Smith's lurid report to the attention of state law enforcement officials.

I can't comment on what happened at Michigan, because I wasn't there. To make it even more difficult to find details, festival organizers panicked after Smith's article surfaced, circling their wagons. They shut down the site's bulletin boards temporarily and "pull[ed] posts ... particularly susceptible to distortion,"

according to the Web site. Now the boards are squeaky clean, and what was actually said on them about public sex at the campgrounds is unknown to all but a few. The purge wasn't the smartest decision on the part of the organizers, and, predictably, the AFA now charges that the music festival has something to hide.

What would be a better way for our organizations to safeguard against these kinds of attacks? Since children are a growing part of the community, our organizations need to grapple with whether kids really belong at events like Michigan. The festival was designed for adults and bills itself as a place for women to be "wild and strong and sexual." If I had kids, I wouldn't bring them to an event that advertises in that way—not because I think sex (gay or straight) is lewd or shameful, but because I believe it's for consenting adults, not children.

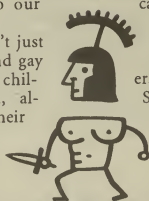
It's true that Michigan has childcare areas for girls, boys, and toddlers. In these three separate camps, adults supervise the children throughout the day and also for part of the evenings. But here's the dilemma: The registration form for childcare makes it possible to give permission for a girl under 16 to be a "wanderer," roaming through the grounds freely on her own. These wander-

ers could conceivably encounter adult sex in their travels. If you personally think it's fine for children to observe adults having sex, this may not seem like a big deal. But in a state like Michigan, with its child abuse statute and hyper-vigilant American Family Association, it can be a very big deal indeed.

If events like Michigan continue to admit children, they need to come up with clear policies on public sex, so that parents can make decisions about attending with their kids. Is sexual activity permitted only in private tents or also in a designated public space? How about in sex-related workshops? Every adult attending such an event needs to have the same understanding of where sexual activity can take place, so that she can accept any possible legal fall-out.

There's a feeling in the lesbian community that, because we're oppressed on account of our sexuality, we shouldn't set up rules about sex for our own spaces. But, as this incident with the Michigan festival points out, we have to face the reality that the increasing numbers of children among us make our organizations and our families particularly vulnerable to attacks from the right. ▼

Paula Martinac is the author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNcolumn@aol.com. For more Lesbian Notions, visit www.planetout.com.



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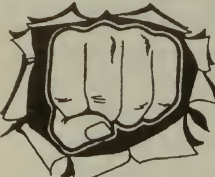
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Quick-thinking crime stopper



Mission station police Captain Ron Roth, left, thanks Frank Cuneo, a doorman at The Cafe and a Golden Gate Transit employee, for his quick thinking while on duty at the popular Castro bar in August that led to the apprehension of two suspects wanted for an alleged attempted murder charge in Southern California. Cuneo recognized the suspects when they tried to enter the bar and called 911; the suspects were apprehended by police shortly afterwards. At the October 5 MUMC meeting, Cuneo was presented with a citation by Supervisor Mark Leno, as Lawrence Ozoa, right, the mayor's LGBT liaison, looks on.

Déjà vu

by Jane Warner

3 600 block of 16th, October 4, 3:10 p.m.: The owner of the Bar on Castro, Morgan Gorrono, was driving on Market Street when he recognized a man who had been arrested years ago for breaking into his house. Gorrono followed the man up 16th and called 911 after he observed him walk into an open garage. Police arrived and found the man coming out the front door of the residence and immediately placed him under arrest. A computer check revealed the suspect had a "no bail" warrant and several priors for burglary. Found in his possession was a 10 inch long saw blade. Booked for trespassing, possession of burglary tools, and the "no bail" warrant was Gilbert Gardner, 42.

Marlboro man

Walgreens, 498 Castro, October 2, 2 a.m.: A man came into Walgreens and tried to purchase 10 cartons of cigarettes with a credit card. When the clerk asked for identification, the man said he didn't have any, but gave his social security number instead. The clerk called American Express who said that the card was not re-

ported stolen, however, the man's social security number did not match the account. The clerk called 911 and the man left the store. A responding police officer found him loitering outside. When asked about the card, the man lied to the officer, but later admitted the card wasn't his. The 38-year-old suspect was taken to Mission station and booked for possession of a stolen credit card, lying to a police officer, possession of drug paraphernalia, and two local warrants for \$600.



Big gulp

7-Eleven, 3998 18th Street, October 2, 3:45 a.m.: A man came into 7-Eleven and after a few minutes of loitering, the clerk asked him to leave. The man complied, but on his way out he grabbed a glass donation jar filled with about \$25 in change and ran down the street. The clerk called 911 and a description of the culprit was broadcast to officers in the area. About 15 minutes later, an officer in the Bayview District made a traffic stop on a Toyota pick-up truck for a broken tail light. Hearing the description of the 7-Eleven caper, the officer immediately saw that the passenger in the car matched the description. Upon closer inspection, the officer saw a large amount of change on the front

seat. The 7-Eleven clerk was brought to the scene where she positively identified the passenger as the thief. The driver of the car and suspected passenger, both of whom had prior burglary convictions, were placed under arrest and booked at Mission station.

Bad timing

Watch Zone, 2319 Market Street, October 4, 5:30 p.m.: After taking inventory of the store's merchandise, the manager discovered five expensive watches were missing from a display case. The last time the watches were accounted for was a week before, and there were no known suspects.

The next day, however, a man came into the store to have his new wrist watch adjusted. The manager looked at the \$1,800 watch and discovered it was one of the watches missing. The manager took possession of the watch and asked the man how he came to have it. At first the man said he got it on eBay but later admitted he purchased it from a man standing on the corner of Haight and Pierce streets. The man left the store before police could question him further. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

Ron Hill

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Commission identification cards," per se, according to DPH spokeswoman Eileen Shields, although members do have their own business cards.

Charges against Hill may very well be the result of an identity theft, but those details will reveal themselves in the weeks to come. For now, the San Francisco DA's office has not yet decided whether to seek arrest for Hill on a warrant issued in another county. San Francisco investigators are still in the process of gathering information related to local accusations. ▼



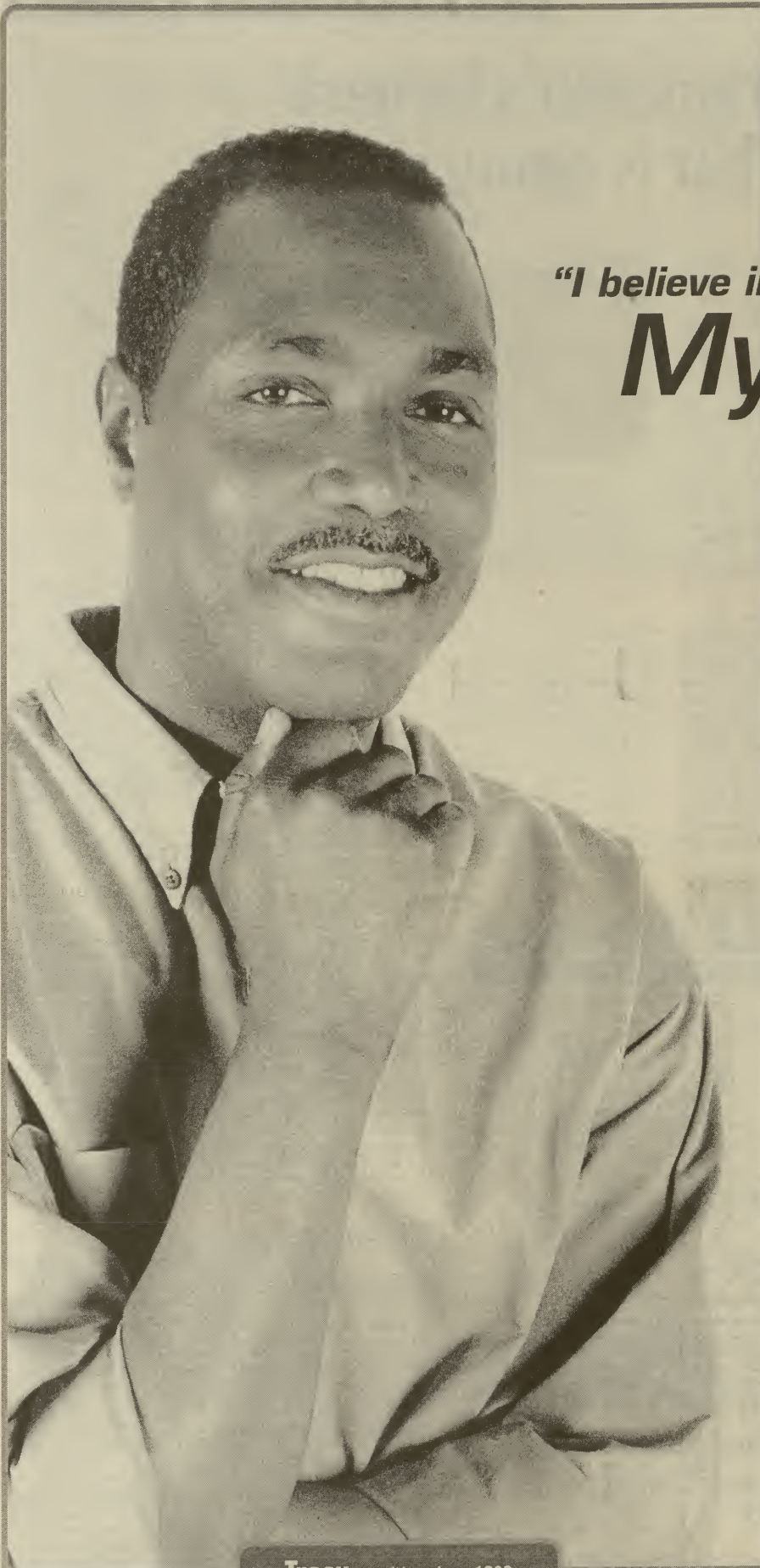
Health Commissioner Ron Hill

Pride prez

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(secretary), Nikki Calma, Anna Damiani, Steven Davies, Eddie Dobbins, Jennifer Mork, George Smith III, Joshua Smith, Soni Wolf, and Roland Wong (treasurer).

Witherington reminded people that the 2001 Pride Parade and celebration is set for June 23-24. Anyone interested in producing a stage or other venue has until Monday, October 30 to submit their proposal to the Pride office. Details of what proposals must contain are available online at www.sfpride.org, or by calling the office at (415) 864-3733. ▼



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Sacramento's largest gay bar is going straight

by Dan Aiello

A rainbow flag still flies over the building. The owner, bartenders, and barbacks are gay. Drag queens, gay men, and lesbians are everywhere. And for 15 years the Faces nightclub has been the largest and most popular gay bar in California's capital city, drawing to its doors the LGBT community from San Francisco to Reno, Stockton to Chico. So why are many Sacramentoans now calling into question this venerable institution's credentials as a gay bar?

For nearly two decades Faces and its predecessor K Street have reigned supreme over all other gay clubs in Sacramento. It has been "the sun in Sacramento's gay solar system," said Richard Boriolo, a former bartender at the club and now owner of Hamburger Mary's.

The club's dominance of the gay scene has remained largely unchallenged due to owner Terry Sidie's savvy business decisions. While other bars cater to neighborhood or age-specific clientele, until now Faces (because of its size, location, and a floor plan offering several venues under one roof) has been the club where everyone could go and feel welcome. In a relatively small gay community like Sacramento's, inclusion has been the key to the club's success.



Faces, Sacramento's largest gay bar, is now marketing to straights.

But, along with the changing demographics of downtown Sacramento, the club scene has begun to change as well. Three years ago The Western was sold and new owners reopened the club as The Depot, a "Detour-meets-Midnight Sun" refurb, becoming the first bar in 20 years to give Faces some serious across-the-street competition.

Whether it was to offset revenue lost to The Depot and The Mercantile's patio bar or just an opportunity to increase the club's profitability, Face's most recent marketing decision has created the "is it gay enough?" controversy among gay and lesbian clubgoers.

Sidie made the decision to aggressively promote Faces to the straight community as an "alternative" dance club both in

straight-oriented newspapers as well as on two local radio stations where the ads ambiguously touted Faces as "a club for the open-minded."

This marketing decision has proven to be successful for him, so far. However, the success of that advertising has had a profound impact on the club's demographics, changing the Faces crowd from gay and lesbian to mixed. This has left at least a few of the club's longtime patrons feeling alienated. "It's no longer a gay club," said Larry, who declined to give his last name. He's a former Faces customer who now calls The Depot his "club of choice."

For Joey Mota, another longtime Faces patron, the decision by Sidie to market the club to straight clientele may be profitable, but it's not acceptable. "I think it's wrong. I think it's a sellout of the gay community to make a buck."

In fact Jeff, Faces doorman since the bar's beginning (who also declined to give his last name), tells any of the new straight patrons who ask, "this used to be primarily a gay bar." So, if the doorman no longer considers Faces to be a gay bar, what exactly is it?

Like the large Tracks club of the late 1980s in Washington, D.C., Faces is redefining itself as a club for everyone, gay and straight. For Tracks, the decision to change its focus from exclusively a gay bar in order to draw the straight community's large num-

bers and dollars, eventually led to the club's closure by the early 1990s as the gay community retreated to its gay-only clubs and the straight community lost interest in the novelty club.

Reportedly, in recent weeks, fights have broken out at Faces after young straight men who had too much to drink lost their "political correctness" toward gay and lesbian customers. The bar has increased its security both inside and in front of the club, but many in the LGBT community worry that the fights and security issues of Faces will inevitably become concerns for the two neighboring gay bars.

Faces' marketing decision begs the question: What constitutes a gay bar? Is it ownership, staffing, or patronage?

The Depot, the newcomer that has forced Sidie's foray into the straight twenty-something community, is gay-owned. A surprising 50 percent of its bartenders and barbacks, however, are straight. Still, its patronage remains almost all gay or lesbian.

The Mercantile is staffed by gay and lesbian bartenders, but it has long been owned by a straight San Franciscan. The Bolt, a popular new leather and Levi bar, is gay-owned and -operated. However, it's a men-only club.

As for the bar and restaurant venues, Sacramento's Hamburger Mary's stands out as both gay-owned and gay-operated. The restaurant and bar staff is primarily gay or lesbian, but as with any restaurant, patronage is mixed. The Town House is a smaller bar and restaurant that caters to a neighborhood crowd of primarily gay men and lesbians, and is managed by a lesbian but owned by a straight couple.

Despite the controversy and hurt feelings over Faces' changing demographics, Sacramento's downtown nightlife is perhaps the best it's ever been. But for the anti-assimilationist who despises the blurring of that gay-straight line, it may be time to lament Sacramento's changing downtown scene. ▼

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S.F. Bay Guardian interview 9/13/00

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Mastectomy book to be discussed at BCA forum

by Katie Szymanski

For various reasons, images of women with mastectomies always provoke a loud public response. It happened when a series of graphically detailed advertisements appeared around the city, and when women with mastectomies walked topless through the Pride Parade. And it will happen again with San Francisco photographer Amelia Davis's new book, *The First Look*, released by University of Illinois Press this month, which is also National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

In order to provide people a chance to view and talk about mastectomy depictions in an intelligent manner, Breast Cancer Action will host a forum on Thursday, October 19 to discuss Davis's book, which features stories and photographs of women who have undergone breast

surgery for cancer.

The group that doesn't shy away from controversy will confront head-on the issues brought forth by mastectomy images, from "shocking" to "reassuring," as described by Dr. Nancy Snyderman, who wrote the forward for Davis's book. Snyderman, who is also an ABC News correspondent, will moderate the discussion, which takes place at the Hang Gallery, 556 Sutter Street, from 6-8:30 p.m.

"People have strong reactions to images of women missing a breast," said Barbara Brenner, executive director of BCA. "We think it's important to show people the reality of this disease, and we want to give them a place to talk about it."

Admission to next week's forum is free, and refreshments will be provided courtesy of Vivande. For more information on the event, visit www.bcaction.org, or call (415) 243-9301. ▼



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■ HIGHLY EFFECTIVE THERAPY

CRIXIVAN in combination with antiretroviral agents is a powerful protease inhibitor that fights HIV and is among the preferred treatments for HIV in federal healthcare guidelines.¹ CRIXIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV; CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 T-cell count, as shown in studies over a one-year period. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.

■ DURABLE RESULTS

In a landmark study, over 90% of 31 patients receiving a combination of CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks. Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one-year mark. In a separate study, 30% of 261 patients receiving dual therapy of CRIXIVAN and AZT had serum viral loads below the limit of detection at 48 weeks. In another landmark study, 43% of 40 patients receiving combination therapy with CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC had plasma viral loads below the limit of detection at 40 weeks. In this study of over 1,000 patients, the group of patients receiving CRIXIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. Overall, the number of deaths was inadequate to assess the impact of CRIXIVAN on survival. Blood viral loads were measured by available tests and the virus may still be present in other organ systems.

■ THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CRIXIVAN

CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop stones in the kidney or urinary tract. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming these stones. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems.

As with other protease inhibitors, changes in body fat, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia, and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Additionally, severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients also taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Also, taking CRIXIVAN with any products containing St. John's wort, an herbal supplement, is not recommended because it may lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.

For more detailed information about CRIXIVAN, please read the information immediately following this advertisement.

¹Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 5, 1999.

**Remember to ask your
doctor about CRIXIVAN.**

CRIXIVAN[®]
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules





Patient Information about CRIXIVAN® (KRIK-sih-van)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
Generic name: indinavir (in-DIH-nuh-veer) sulfate

9024512

Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, read the leaflet each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor.** Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays". If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, every day.** It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. **If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.** However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. **Take CRIXIVAN with water.** You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. **Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.** Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include: dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want) corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar. Do not take CRIXIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIXIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIXIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.
6. **It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquids (preferably water) throughout the day, every day.** CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones. Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
 - You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN.
- Also talk to your doctor if you have:
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
 - Problems with your kidneys.
 - Diabetes
 - Hemophilia
 - High cholesterol and you are taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins".

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines, herbal products including St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), or dietary supplements.

Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?*

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine)	HISMANAL® (astemizole)
VERSED® (midazolam)	HALCION® (triazolam)
ORAP® (pimozide)	Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)
PROPULSID® (cisapride)	

Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in **serious or life-threatening** problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).

In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with the following: Rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

It is not recommended to take CRIXIVAN with the cholesterol-lowering drugs MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between CRIXIVAN and LIPITOR® (atorvastatin) and BAYCOL® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing drugs with CRIXIVAN.

Taking CRIXIVAN with St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Taking St. John's wort has been shown to decrease CRIXIVAN levels and may lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to CRIXIVAN or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT)	EPIVIR® (lamivudine, 3TC)
ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)	isoniazid (INH)
BACTRIM®/SEPTA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)	DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole)
BLIXIN® (clarithromycin)	ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine)	Methadone

VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.

MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.

NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

RESCRIPTOR® (delavirdine) — If you take CRIXIVAN with RESCRIPTOR®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

SPORANOX® (itraconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SPORANOX®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SUSTIVA®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors, including CRIXIVAN, together with some of the cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." Call your doctor if you develop severe muscle pain or weakness.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, low red blood cell count, flank pain, painful urination, feeling unwell, nausea, upset stomach, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, increased or decreased appetite, back pain, headache, dizziness, taste changes, rash, itchy skin, yellowing of the skin and/or eyes, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

Marketing Experience

Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: allergic reactions; severe skin reactions; yellowing of the skin and/or eyes; heart problems including heart attack; abdominal swelling; indigestion; inflammation of the kidneys; inflammation of the pancreas; joint pain; depression; itching; hives; change in skin color; hair loss; ingrown toenails with or without infection; crystals in the urine; painful urination; and numbness of the mouth.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°- 86°F).
- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.

This medication was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

This leaflet provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Mbeki fond of foreign conspiracy theories

by S. Predrag

South African President Thabo Mbeki is becoming obsessed with what he perceives to be a foreign conspiracy surrounding the AIDS epidemic that claims at least 6,000 lives every day on this continent alone.

President Mbeki, who has been "flirting" with American and other dissident scientists for quite some time, recently accused the U.S., its Central Intelligence Agency, and multinational drug companies of conspiring to im-

pose the view that HIV causes AIDS.

Addressing the African National Congress, South Africa's ruling party, its ministers, and members of Parliament, Mbeki said that his questioning the link between HIV and AIDS was harming the interests of multinational drug companies.

Mbeki also told the ANC caucus that South Africa was emerging as a leader among developing countries in its attempts to get a better deal in the world economy which was, as he put it, a threat to the U.S. and other major Western

powers.

Mbeki, and his Minister of Health, Dr. Tshabala-Msimang, are isolating themselves even further from both the local and international community because of their repeated refusal to accept the majority view that HIV causes AIDS.

The dissident scientists claim that the real causes of a lack of resistance to AIDS are related to poverty, poor hygiene, underdevelopment, and local diseases.

If one agrees that HIV causes AIDS, argues Mbeki, then it inevitably follows that it must be

treated with drugs that are produced by Western drug companies. According to this logic, Mbeki concludes that American and other drug companies are forced to insist on the thesis that HIV causes AIDS in order to increase their profits.

Mbeki went even further by claiming that one unnamed Western drug company allegedly admitted to him in private that it has spent large sums of money trying – unsuccessfully – to make an anti-AIDS vaccine, but failed to isolate the HIV virus.

And here comes one of Mbeki's favorite conspiracy theories – he claims that the CIA was allegedly involved in covertly promoting the view that HIV causes AIDS.

According to the South African *Mail and Guardian* report, Mbeki said at a meeting held behind closed doors that criticism of his AIDS viewpoint was "a foretaste of foreign attempts to undermine his government." He added that a



S. Africa President Thabo Mbeki

promotion of the idea that he was "deranged" was part of this campaign, particularly in the Western world.

The South African president also accused the Treatment Action Campaign, an AIDS lobby group, of being on the payroll of Western drug companies because it is insisting that the government in

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Ride Sunday, feast Thursday for Shanti

by Terry Beswick

Whether you're a biker or a business executive, this is the month to show your support for Shanti.

This Sunday, October 15, over 200 motorcyclists from all over the Bay Area plan to burn some rubber for Shanti from San Francisco to the Russian River in the "Fourth Annual Ride for Life."

And on Thursday evening, October 19, Shanti expects "about 500 business executives, donors, and friends" to wine and dine their way through "The Power of Caring," the nonprofit group's annual volunteer awards ceremony. In addition to honoring several of their volunteers and benefactors, celebrants will mark the agency's 26 years of providing emotional and practical support to people with HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening and chronic illnesses with a diverse array of services and training programs.

Hank Plante, co-anchor of Channel 5 Eyewitness News, has

been named "honorary starter" of this year's "Ride for Life" event, which kicks off at 16th and Valencia Streets in San Francisco. From there, biker men and women will head north across the Golden Gate Bridge to the Russian River where participants will enjoy a hearty lunch at the Northpoint Restaurant in Monte Rio.

Last year's bikers raised over \$30,000 for Shanti, and event organizers report that the event's success has helped the \$4 million agency to expand its client base beyond people with HIV/AIDS to people with other life-threatening illnesses, as well as the frail elderly.

Riders pay a \$25 donation to enter the event, but the bulk of funds are raised by riders who collect pledges from friends, family, neighbors, and associates. Corporate and business sponsors have helped to underwrite costs with cash sponsorships, services, and advertising space.

For information about the ride or to register, call Ron Perri at Shanti at (415) 674-4720, or e-mail rperri@shanti.org, or visit

www.shanti-rides.org.

While leather and studs are *di rigueur* for the ride, "power outfits, of course" are recommended at Thursday's "Power of Caring" event at the Old Federal Reserve Bank Building at 301 Battery Street in San Francisco. The fete begins at 6 p.m. with a reception, followed by an food and wine tasting coordinated by Massimo Catering and featuring some of Northern California's finest wineries. At 7:45, the Golden Gate Men's Chorus will begin the awards ceremony honoring donors and volunteers, followed by the 11-piece Cuban dance band, Orquestra La Moderna Tradicion.

Community awardees are Joan and Ralph Lane Jr., while inspirational service volunteer awardees are Gladys Canizalez, Michael Lynch, Alex Martinez, and Ed Noble.

Tickets for "Power of Caring" are \$175, and there is free validated parking at One Embarcadero Center. To reserve tickets, donate, or volunteer, call (415) 674-4764, or visit www.powerofcaring.org. ▼



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Lieberman, Cheney debate gay marriage

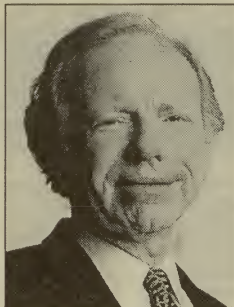
by Bob Roehr

Gay-related questions may have been missing from last week's televised presidential debate, but the Democratic and Republican running mates got to talk about gay marriage in their only national debate last Thursday, October 5.

"Senator, sexual orientation—should a male who loves a male, and a female who loves a female, have all the constitutional rights enjoyed by every American citizen?" asked CNN's Bernard Shaw. He was moderating the vice presidential campaign debate broadcast nationally from Danville, Kentucky.

Democratic Senator Joseph Lieberman had the first response, calling it "a very current and difficult question." He cited the Declaration of Independence "which says right there at the outset that all of us are created equal and that we're endowed, not by any bunch of politicians or philosophers, but by our creator, with those inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Lieberman explained that



Senator Joseph Lieberman

throughout our history "we have extended the orbit of that promise," which is why he has co-sponsored the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and other legislation.

He supported "the traditional notion of marriage as being limited to heterosexual couples," but wanted to eliminate some of the legal inequities that result from gays and lesbians being denied the option of marriage.

"That's why I'm thinking about it and my mind is open to taking some action that will ad-

dress those elements of unfairness, while respecting the traditional religious and civil institutions of marriage."

Republican Dick Cheney chose to emphasize freedom. "We live in a free society and freedom means freedom for everybody. ... People should be free to enter into any kind of relationship they want to enter into. It's really no one else's business in terms of trying to regulate or prohibit behavior."

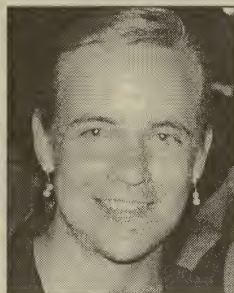
He said the next step, that of official sanction of these relationships in the same manner as conventional marriage, is "a tougher problem." Cheney pointed out that state law, not federal, regulates marriage, and "I don't think there should necessarily be a federal policy in this area."



Dick Cheney

"I think different states are likely to come to different conclusions and that's appropriate. I think we ought to do everything we can to tolerate and accommodate whatever kind of relationships people want to enter into."

Nowhere in his remarks, however, did Cheney mention his



Mary Cheney

openly lesbian daughter, Mary, who was at the debate and went on stage afterwards and hugged her father. Mary Cheney has been serving as an adviser to her dad and has taken time off from pursuing a graduate degree to be on the campaign trail.

Jacob Weisberg, writing in the online political magazine *Slate*,

said that Cheney "actually went further than Lieberman, who affirmed the idea of 'traditional marriage' as something that should remain closed to gay couples."

The religious right was quick to jump on Cheney's remarks. "As Nixon went to China, George W. Bush is going to Fire Island," wrote vehemently homophobic columnist Rod Dreher in the *New York Post*. He called Cheney's response "a bombshell" to social conservatives.

"Cheney telegraphed a dramatic retreat on the gay rights front from the standard GOP line."

"Goodbye Defense of Marriage Act," said Dreher. "Can the ban on gays in the military be far behind? This explains the GOP's relative silence on the Boy Scouts issue."

"I can't begin to imagine how many hearts were broken last night in living rooms across America," said failed Republican presidential aspirant Gary Bauer. If his total vote count in the primaries was any indication, not many. Bauer continued by saying, Cheney's "answer is wrong no matter how you analyze it."

At least so far, the whining from social conservatives over Cheney's response has been ignored by the Bush campaign. ▼

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Hate crimes stripped in conference committee

by Bob Roehr

Federal hate crimes legislation was removed from the Department of Defense authorization bill last Thursday, October 5. In an 11-9 vote, Senate conferees agreed to drop the amendment when their House colleagues refused to go along with it.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Mississippi) has adamantly opposed the amendment, despite it having passed that body by a vote of 57-42. Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Warner (R-Virginia) opposed all amendments to the defense bill but since then has said that he would vote for a stand alone hate crimes measure.

"The Republican leaders have turned their backs on legislation designed to send the message that all persons should be treated the same under the law—no matter what their race, color, religion,

sex, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability," said President Clinton in a prepared statement.

Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign, called the action by the GOP leadership "morally reprehensible." She said, "It is not only bad policy, it is bad politics,

first recorded vote of the full House on a hate crimes bill. Ivers stressed that a bipartisan approach is the most effective way to pass legislation.

Stachelberg said that a free-standing bill "would pass overwhelmingly." But the Republican leadership, especially in the House, will not allow that be-

"If the national outcry is loud enough, we still have a chance to act on this issue in the remaining days of this Congress."

— Senator Ted Kennedy

and their irresponsible actions may cost the party in November."

"The conservative leadership that refused to allow this legislation to become law has sent a message of callous indifference to our country," said Elizabeth Toledo, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Kevin Ivers, political director of Log Cabin Republicans, which worked for passage of hate crimes legislation, said he "was not surprised" by the outcome. He is "convinced that the Democrats wanted an issue [to use in the campaign] much more than they wanted to pass this bill."

Ivers noted that the legislation did not move in the Senate until Gordon Smith (R-Oregon) became a lead sponsor. It was mired in the House until Bill McCollum (R-Florida) committed to it, and a "motion to instruct" conferees to accept the Senate amendment quickly followed. That was the

cause "it is scared that their [electoral] base will walk away in November if this bill becomes law."

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota) said that they might try to bring a separate hate crimes bill to the floor of the Senate in the few days remaining in this session. Or they may try to add it to another bill as an amendment.

"If the national outcry is loud enough, we still have a chance to act on this issue in the remaining days of this Congress," said Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Massachusetts), a principal sponsor of the measure. But so far, that groundswell does not seem to be rising.

"Prospects are dimming but I don't think that they are doomed," said Stachelberg. She refused to speculate on the prospects of passing a bill in a lame duck session in November, an increasingly talked about prospect. ▼

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Charges dropped in murder of gay deaf student at Washington D.C. college

by Bob Roehr

The murder of Eric Franklin Plunkett, secretary of the Lambda Society, a gay and lesbian group, stunned the community of Gallaudet University, the nation's premier educational center for the deaf and hard of hearing. The 19-year-old freshman, who had cerebral palsy, was found beaten to death in his dorm room on the Washington, D.C. campus on September 28.

There was a sense of discomfort, yet relief when police announced the arrest of Thomas Minch, an 18-year-old fellow freshman at Gallaudet, in connection with Plunkett's death.

But last Wednesday October 4, the U.S. Attorney's office dropped all charges against Minch only moments before he was scheduled to be arraigned on charges of second-degree murder in Washington, D.C. Superior Court.

Later that evening Assistant Police Chief Terrance Gainer said that there was insufficient evidence to prosecute. Inexperienced

investigators had made a premature arrest, which upon review, did not constitute a sufficiently strong case to make the charges stick.

Minch had voluntarily gone to the police station on Tuesday afternoon to make a statement. Gainer said the lead detectives arrested him based upon weak circumstantial evidence. "If he had confessed, he

could have been in the month since both arrived on campus. Police initially said they believed that a personal dispute had escalated into violence. One television station reported that the pair had a physical relationship that Plunkett wanted to end.

In 1981 a lover's quarrel between students at Gallaudet ended

the possibility of his return once the matter is resolved.

The general reaction from students was one of confusion. On the one hand, those who knew Minch found it hard to believe that the quiet, slightly built teen could kill anyone. Yet they also were aware that the tight security on campus made it highly likely that the murderer was one of their own, not an outsider.

Officers of the Lambda Society said that their complaints of anti-gay harassment had not been taken seriously by the police. A meeting at the office of the Human Rights Campaign on October 6 brought them together with local gay leaders and the police to talk through the issues.

Commander Jennifer Greene of the 5th Police District vowed to do better. A TTY machine is being installed at the district headquarters.

The keyboard and teletype machines will allow the deaf community to communicate directly with the police over regular phone lines.

Gallaudet held a memorial service for Plunkett on October 6. It was the first time his parents had spoken in public. "Eric touched the lives of people from coast to coast," said his stepfather Chris Cornils. "His life is one to be celebrated with joy."

Plunkett's mother, Kathleen, thanked the community for their support and asked them share any information they have with the police.

The Eric Plunkett Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established in his honor. Donations can be sent to the Development Office, Gallaudet University, 800 Florida Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002 or by calling (202) 651-5410 for more information. ▼

Officers of the Lambda Society said that their complaints of anti-gay harassment had not been taken seriously by the police.

would still be in jail," Gainer said.

Forensic evidence from the crime scene has not been fully processed. That includes a chair believed to have been used in killing Plunkett. Perhaps fingerprints, fiber, or blood on the chair will provide a link to the killer. The police said they are continuing their investigation and Minch remains a prime suspect in the slaying.

Minch and Plunkett had be-

come friends in the month since both arrived on campus. Police initially said they believed that a personal dispute had escalated into violence. One television station reported that the pair had a physical relationship that Plunkett wanted to end.

In 1981 a lover's quarrel between students at Gallaudet ended the possibility of his return once the matter is resolved. The general reaction from students was one of confusion. On the one hand, those who knew Minch found it hard to believe that the quiet, slightly built teen could kill anyone. Yet they also were aware that the tight security on campus made it highly likely that the murderer was one of their own, not an outsider. Officers of the Lambda Society said that their complaints of anti-gay harassment had not been taken seriously by the police. A meeting at the office of the Human Rights Campaign on October 6 brought them together with local gay leaders and the police to talk through the issues. Commander Jennifer Greene of the 5th Police District vowed to do better. A TTY machine is being installed at the district headquarters.

Congress reauthorizes AIDS services for five years

by Bob Roehr

Reauthorized Ryan White CARE Act, which provides most federal funding for AIDS services, unanimously passed both houses of Congress last Thursday, October 5. Earlier in the week a conference resolved differences between House and Senate versions of the bill. President Clinton's signature is assured but timing will depend on whether a public signing ceremony is scheduled.

"Most people do not consider it to be a perfect bill," said Bill Arnold, co-chair of the ADAP Working Group, "but everybody seems to consider it an acceptable bill."

Terje Anderson, executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS called it "the result of a lot of good bipartisan work, weighing a lot of diverse interests." He said one of the greatest challenges will be bringing in new people who should be in care.

One major change with the reauthorized CARE Act is the definition of what is measured as the basis for funding. AIDS, an advanced stage of disease, will give way to HIV infection as the yardstick of disease burden. The measure will change from a cumulative count of all infections past and present, to simply the current caseload.

The AIDS standard was created when there was little that could be done to treat the disease. Protease inhibitors and combination therapy have radically changed that. Using the number of current HIV infections has become a better measure of the services needed for an area. Anderson credited Representative Tom Coburn (R-Oklahoma) for pushing this change.

The current definition created a bias in favor of "first wave" cities, those such as New York and San

Francisco that first felt the brunt of the epidemic. That will be reduced with the new criteria. Funds will be more equitably distributed on the basis of current caseload, especially for smaller cities, rural areas, and minority communities.

San Francisco receives much more per patient than other jurisdictions under the present system. It would have been particularly hard hit by the formula revision passed in the House. But the compromise limited those reductions to no more than 15 percent over the next five years. And if total federal spending increases enough, it may see no reductions at all.

Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-California) said she had done her best to limit harm to San Francisco and supported the compromise.

Money

Congress is just a few working days from adjourning but nobody is talking about what total AIDS funding will be for the fiscal year. "They are not talking details with anybody," said Anderson.

"The general feedback is that they will go above the high marks of the president, House, and Senate. The question is, how high?" Anderson called it "more of a black box than it has ever been."

"In this climate there is pork going on like you have never seen, and it is not just the Republicans," said Arnold. He is optimistic that AIDS will receive the funding increases that it needs, but that may depend in part upon total spending elsewhere.

ADAP, the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, needs more money for the current spending cycle that ends in March. Without an emergency appropriation, some states will begin to implement caps, waiting lists, and other impediments to patient access to life-saving medications.

Talk is increasing that Congress will take the unusual step of returning for business after the November election to finish up with the appropriations bills. If that happens, "God knows what the post-election dynamics will look like," said Anderson.

Testing rapists

The House also passed a measure that encourages states to pass laws that allow rape victims to demand an HIV test of their attacker. It stipulates that the test must be conducted within 48 hours of a formal indictment for rape.

The rationale for quick action is that early use of combination therapy, within 72 hours of exposure, seems to prevent most exposure to HIV from turning into an active infection. That data is based upon studies of health care workers exposed to HIV through needle sticks and were offered post-exposure therapy.

States that fail to pass such a law may see their federal crime fighting dollars shrink by up to 10 percent. The House vote was 380 to 19, however, the Senate is unlikely to act this session. ▼

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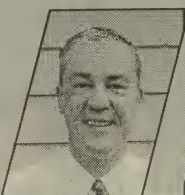
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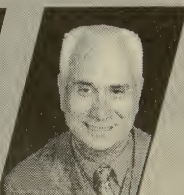
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FDA to consider immune-based therapies

by Jeff Gustavson,
Survive AIDS Writers Pool

The Food and Drug Administration will hold a long awaited advisory panel on immune-based therapies (IBT) for HIV this Monday, October 16, in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The FDA's official correspondence states: "The agency is seeking advice about what guidance to provide sponsors developing immunomodulatory products for this disease. Discussion will include the use and development of surrogate markers in early product development. The meeting will include presentations that will review current knowledge in the area of IBT, and examine important issues related to the development and clinical study of IBT." This meeting is not intended to revise the FDA's current guidance document on HIV.

This meeting, which has been delayed several times, will be modeled on last year's meeting on resistance testing. Survive AIDS spoke with Sheryl Lard, Ph.D.,

who is the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research ombudsman, about the issues surrounding this meeting. Lard also is the director of quality assurance who recently moved from drugs to biologics.

"Oversight for immune-based therapies for HIV is currently focused in the Center for Biologics because of the types of products now under development. The antiviral committee, which brings a tremendous wealth of knowledge of HIV therapeutics based on its long history with conventional antiviral agents, will be introduced to the topic in a formal way: where we are and what do we need to start doing to properly evaluate IBTs? This hearing will address agents in phase I and phase II [toxicity and dose-ranging, efficacy is done in phase III], opening the initial discussions of what the FDA should accept when considering these agents. The hearing

will not consider any specific products. We plan to look at the big picture in very general terms," Lard said.

By law, the FDA is limited in its number of committees to 26. These committees are broken down by organ systems or in some cases product characteristics and tend to be more dispersed in terms of disease processes they are evaluating. Organizing review of both biologic agents and antiviral drugs under a committee

that is focused around a single disease is something new for the FDA. Moving oversight to the committee that understands HIV can only facilitate more rapid evaluation by more knowledgeable people.

Lard continued: "Sponsors [IBT manufacturers] are unclear what to measure [to prove efficacy]. In the past, under biologics, IBTs have not gone to a single HIV-specific committee. The antiviral committee is a cohesive,

disease-specific group which follows a well-planned process. It is composed of a core group of virologists, clinicians, and community representatives which can be augmented each time with the addition of specific expertise to address the type of product being considered."

The community representative for Monday's hearing is Project Inform's Brenda Lein.

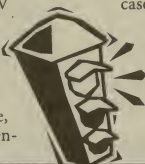
The meeting will have a review of the current paradigm of current standards for product approval by agency speakers. Dr. Dan Kuritzkes, from the University of Colorado Health Sciences, will talk on the usefulness of CD4 count and viral load in measuring bioactivity of IBTs. Dr. Michael Lederman, from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, will present on lab and *in vivo* measures of immune function. The only measure not lab-based (besides clinical end points) is the skin test measure of delayed-type hypersensitivity (DTH). A DTH test is where they inject a small amount of antigen beneath the skin and look for the

immune system to react to it, like the routinely administered TB tests.

Aland Landay, Ph.D., from Rush Medical Center and vice chair of the immunology research agenda committee of the ACTG, will present an overview of the immune response to viruses and tools to measure specific functions, of which there are many. Dr. Donna Mildvan, chief of infectious diseases from Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City, who once said "a surrogate marker is in the eye of the beholder," will talk about where we are and where to go from here with respect to IBTs (see *Survive AIDS* column from May 11, 2000 "Immune-based therapies").

Following this, there is a period for public comment and this writer intends to testify. It is with concern that Survive AIDS has observed claims being made in the press by manufacturers of IBTs regarding their utility and efficacy, confusing the public into believing a great effect has been seen in the absence of data. We would like to see a more clearly defined benefit to IBTs rather than press releases. We also are concerned that press releases are distorting the informed consent process. Nevertheless, we are pleased that the FDA is finally giving IBTs the attention these promising therapies deserve.

After the period for public testimony, the panel will discuss all the issues presented for two and one half hours. A future Survive AIDS column will report back on the meeting. ▼



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Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

5, Mark Leno in District 8, and Tom Ammiano in District 9.

Incidentally, the Police Officers Association wants me to know that in addition to the gay/lesbian candidates they endorsed that I listed last week, the POA also endorsed Juanita Owens in District 5 (along with fellow gays Chris Dittenhafer in 6, Ammiano in 9 and Leno in 8).

President Bill Clinton appears this Monday, October 16, at a fundraiser in West Hollywood hosted by ANGLE and the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund to raise funds and boost Gerrie Schipske, a lesbian Democrat challenging incumbent conservative GOP Congressman Steve Horn in a tight Long Beach congressional race.

California Democrats currently hold a 25-15 margin in the state Senate and even most Republicans now expect they will likely lose at least one GOP seat next month in the East Bay's 7th District where Democratic challenger Tom Torlakson, an Assemblyman, is thought to be leading GOP incumbent state Senator Dick Rainey; state Senate President pro tem John Burton, smelling victory there, is spending big bucks for Democrat Torlakson in that race.

In another East Bay contest, Representative Ellen Tauscher, a three-term Democrat, appears headed for a big win next month in a congressional district (the 10th) that was once solidly Republican; the same goes for Marin Representative Lynn Woolsey (D), a longtime friend of the gay community, who appears headed for another big win over her GOP challenger.

Meanwhile, San Diego, the next page ▶

OBITUARIES

Blue Cross targets costly changes at terminally ill members

by Dan Aiello

For the second time in six months, Blue Cross of California has informed its members they'll soon be paying higher premiums and receiving less healthcare coverage from the state's largest private health insurance agency. Although the changes affect all members, it is the chronic and terminally ill, those least able to afford higher medical costs, who will be hardest hit.

The company's members were notified last week that it has scrapped its entire line of plans. It will replace every individual plan effective January 1, 2001 with new, slightly more expensive policies that increase both deductibles and co-pay requirements.

For the healthy member the changes will amount only to a nominal cost. But for those who are sick, the changes amount to as much as \$5,000 more per year.

In the October 1 letter to its members, James Ebbitt, Blue Cross senior vice president of individual services, stated that the dramatic reduction in coverage was actually "aimed at keeping Californians covered." However, it's the loss of coverage of some items, the increase in deductibles and co-pays, and the replacement policy's new restrictions on patient care and hospital stays that are explained in the materials accompanying Ebbitt's letter.

It was just a few months ago in June that Blue Cross increased its annual deductible (the amount a member must pay out before the insurance carrier will cover 100 percent of medical costs), from \$500 per year for a PPO member to \$3,000 per year and raised co-pays by 5 percent. The new policies will require between \$4,000 and \$5,000 be spent by the individual member, unless a patient is willing to switch from the compa-

ny's PPO plans to its more restrictive HMO plan.

In addition to the increased deductibles, members must now pay "25 percent of charges of negotiated fees" for doctor's visits, according to Ebbitt. Members used to pay between \$5 and \$20 per visit as a flat fee, regardless of the physician's charges. This change could force many sick patients to avoid costly specialists; a deterrent that would benefit Blue Cross but not a patient's well-being.

The same is true for tests. Blue Cross now demands between 25 and 50 percent of all tests be paid by members. Many HIV patients may no longer be able to afford costs for monthly viral load or CD4 tests and may avoid them, and regular physician visits altogether.

Emergency services, such as urgent care, will become prohibitively expensive for Blue Cross members with these changes as well. In this case, members will be forced to pay between 25 and 50 percent of charges. Visits to non-participating urgent care providers, such as those out-of-state, will not be covered at all. This is a clear deterrent for Blue Cross members to stop using urgent care services and also a serious loss of coverage for members who travel out of state.

Hospital visits also will now be charged to members on a percentage basis, up to \$650 per day. For the chronic and terminally ill, like HIV patients, the annual deductible of \$4,000-\$5,000 will likely be reached. Therefore, in many ways the company's increase in the last six months of the amount a member must pay from \$500 to as much as \$5,000 becomes a very real increase in medical expenses for many HIV-positive individuals who are still working but cannot qualify for government assistance, a group of people benefits counselor John Keasler

describes as "working-class poor people."

For HIV-positive members, many of whom live on limited or fixed incomes, the changes mean painful increases in medical expenses. Expenses that already are difficult to manage in a city as expensive to live in as San Francisco.

Industry wide, healthcare insurance providers are making policy changes which force chronically ill patients into restrictive HMO plans that the provider can then case manage in order to deny benefits, such as costly tests.

HMOs are considered to be one of the worst plans for someone who is HIV-positive largely because physicians who specialize in HIV care won't accept the low reimbursement offered by an HMO provider, an amount that can be as low as \$8 per month. The reimbursement is based on a healthy population and most patients in that medical model are not regularly seen. In the case of an HIV practice, nearly every patient is seen at least once a month, making the HMO's reimbursement ridiculously low. In addition to the inadequate reimbursement to HIV practices, many HIV physicians complain that HMOs don't allow them to treat the patient effectively, refusing tests and treatments the physician feels are necessary.

One exception to this is the Kaiser model, which is able to offset the costs of treating the chronically ill because its physicians are the company's employees and many tests are conducted by Kaiser. However, patients with chronic or terminal illnesses are essentially locked into their plans because insurance carriers are allowed to deny membership to any Californian they deem to be potentially unprofitable. Therefore, even if an HIV-positive Blue Cross member wanted to change to another insurance provider, he or she could not. ▼

Kelly Showers

Dec. 11, 1960 — Sept. 19, 2000

Kelly, a native San Franciscan, passed away peacefully at home with his partner and sister by his side, from complications with nonspecific Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Kelly was an active member in the Gay and Lesbian community as well as the Leather community. Kelly was SF Leather Daddy XVI and an active member of The Constantine's.

Despite his illness he helped to raise money for various charities. He was also responsible for helping to organize the Leather Pride Contingent for SF Pride Parade for the last two years. His sparkling blue eyes will be missed as well as his smile and sense of humor.

Kelly is survived by his father Ted Showers, mother Shirley Showers, brother Casey Showers, sister Aleta

Dowell, two nephews, a niece, his partner of ten years John Lopez, and his many friends.

There will be a celebration of Kelly's life Saturday, November 4, 2000 at Daddy's on Castro from 4-7pm.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for style and taste. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. Deadline for obituaries is Mon. at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Fri. at 3 p.m.



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Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

state's second largest city, will elect a new mayor next month and although both candidates are registered Republicans, most gay and Democratic political activists in that city are supporting San Diego County Supervisor **Ron Roberts** in that city's nonpartisan election.

A friend of mine here recently received one of those cutesy, quickie fund-raising letters from N.Y.'s GOP Senate candidate, **Rick Lazio**; it read: "Dear Tom, I am Rick Lazio. It won't take me six pages to convince you to send me an urgently needed contribution for my U. S. Senate campaign in New York. It will only take six words: 'I'm running against **Hillary Rodham Clinton**.' Sincerely, Rick Lazio." Tom sent the letter back with the enclosed written message: "It'll take me only one word to reply - NO!"

Forget **Ralph Nader's** Green

Party; pay no mind to **Pat Buchanan's** Reform Party; the Libertarian Party is the only minor party to appear on all 50 states and the District of Columbia in next month's national election.

Incidentally, George Dubya Bush, during their first televised debate, repeatedly accused Al Gore of exercising in "fuzzy math" - Bush also claimed that Gore's campaign had "outspent our own campaign." Hardly true. According to recent federal finance reports, the Bush campaign has outspent the Gore effort \$94 million to \$46 million.

Word comes from Montpelier that more than 800 same-sex couples have traveled to Vermont since July 1 to form civil unions in the only state that recognizes gay couples as spouses.

Well, it was hardly unexpected, but the syndicated show, *Dr. Laura*, has now been dropped by several Canadian TV stations, citing low ratings; the four stations - the program's only Canadian out-

lets - are in Montreal, Vancouver, and smaller towns in Ontario and Alberta.

And further bad news for the religious right comes from Atlanta where it was reported that the leader of a conservative legal foundation seeking to have President Clinton disbarred has been charged with public indecency. An undercover federal officer said he saw **Matthew Glavin** fondling himself in the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area outside Atlanta. The officer said Glavin also fondled him after the two started talking. Glavin, 47, head of the Southeastern Legal Foundation, of course, denied the charge and has resigned. Glavin pleaded no contest to a similar charge in 1996 and was sentenced to probation and a fine. The foundation, which Glavin had headed since 1994, had fought to have Clinton disbarred for lying under oath in Paula Jones's sexual harassment case.

A lead story in last week's *USA*

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Rah

by Jim Provenzano

would like to see a plane crash, and not on *America's Funniest Home Disasters*.

I would like to see a Blue Angel become what it really is, an agent of people-annihilating destruction, instead of a crypto-fascist media-gush-inducing prop. Even after already having had this morbid wish come true—darn that telekinesis!—albeit on other soil, “at an air show somewhere else so it can’t happen here,” Willi Vanilli tells us, and so again a cadre of bleeding jet fuel flavors our skies.

Lombard Street would be a good runway. Wall-bolted motel TVs, fried fish specials, Samsonite luggage and small pets congealing in a flame-melding fireball from say, Van Ness all the way to the Palace of Fine Arts. Dig a scorched Jerry Bruchheimer-esque scar as

long as the trail of lies that leave 800 gay and lesbian military members jobless, beat up, or dead each year.

When other people merely complain about the noise, I complain about what the noise represents. I know that annoys you more than the noise itself.

Accompanying, or inspiring, the aerial daydreams, across the street between attempts to convert a tree-filled lot into a building-code-defiant condo-plex, a landlord lords it over some hired men who strip the trees in his lot down to naked twigs before they can even turn autumnal.

Down the street, a dot-com SUV trolls wrong-way up our one-way cul-de-sac, headset Palm-Piloting his latest merger or user-friendly jpg. Below me, my oddball neighbor is attempting to “build” something. My adolescent stage construction days taught me

that if you can’t get the nail down in three strikes, take up scene painting. My neighbor fails Hammer 101, for three hours.

For background audio, across and occasionally spilling out onto the street, a cluster of drunken brunchers cheer a televised athletic event elsewhere starring NBA players who snubbed the Olympics or could not attend, travel being a parole violation.

So, with any hopes of real journalism arising from this super Sunday completely dashed, let’s talk about movies!

Titans and an-drone-icus

If you still pay to see anything starring Denzel “Don’t be kissin’ no man” Washington, if you are adoptive parents in a multicultural family (or are baby-sitting), or if all the screenings of “The Exorcist: Bile You’ve Never Seen” are sold out, head to your local octoplex for *Remember the Titans*.

Smirking racial tolerance cartoon that it is, this high school football flick, based on a true story, offers fambly entertainment with a predictable yet likable formula. It’s a flipbook of Hallmark cards in shoulder pads. I liked the soundtrack, and all the cute guys.

The problem my more football-informed friend had was how the crunchy close-up onfield action prevented us from seeing which “winning” plays brought this first-time African American coach to a 10-game victory in 1961 suburban Virginia.

Wait, there’s gay stuff. No, it’s a Disney film, no butts in the locker room. There is a kiss.

As a puka-shell-necklaced blonde Californian army brat plunked onfield safely after all the stodgy exposition, Kip Pardue enters, representing Apollo or Ganymede, depending on state age of consent laws.



Model/actor Kip Pardue

Kip is a dreamboat, as the teen mags still say. A scrumptily-ishuou dreamboat, *Teen Beat* would have said.

Kip, er, his character, jokingly kisses a guy in the locker room, which makes the guy tolerant of other races.

I love when that happens! At lunch, Kip, er, his character, gets repeatedly asked if he’s, “you



Remember the Titans: A flipbook of Hallmark cards in shoulder pads.

know” by the equally hunkalicious Petey (Donald Adeosun Faison), who discovers tackling’s more fun than catching balls. Faison you may recall from *Clueless* and next year’s action-packed *Josie and the Pussycats*.

But when Kip, er, Ole Puka Shells is repeatedly asked about his sexual situation, he never answers. This open-endedness, and the lack of an assigned girlfriend, make the topic subtle yet stated.

I’d like to find out what the original player, whose name I’ll let you find out for yourselves, is thinking about that. He played football and was not listed as married in the “went on to become a successful shower door salesman” credits segment. Big hmmm.

Along with being 6’ 2,” Pardue the actor is also a graduate of Yale University and played football there, which guarantees him entry to all those secret Mayflower parties and Mason-sponsored events.

With a tomboy football-obsessed 9-year-old girl representing a potential baby dyke, but later femmed up in adulthood, *Remember* fulfills its RDA of veiled queers in the new at least externally gay-friendly Mouse factory.

But I’m a cheba-leider

Since I preferred to view football games from the sidelines in my high school days, snapping candid of jocks, band members and the errant mascot or two, cheerleading has always been a good visual. Especially when I met some who were lesbians, but by then we were in college.

Kirsten Dunst, my favorite former vampire/child star, now a legal 18, makes *Bring It On* at least worthy of a matinee admission.

The story of cheerleading competitions, ripe for parody, has been, unfortunately, already conquered deftly by the late Howard Ashman’s *Smile*, in a pageant from, *Drop-Dead Gorgeous*, and in over-the-top comic style in *But I’m a Cheerleader*, where a sapphic sweet sixteen suffers the over-decorated horrors of an ex-gay brainwash camp.

You can also see Kip as a gay football player in *But I’m a Cheerleader*. Ohmygod, like what a coincidence! That doubles his gay-cool quotient.

But while *Cheerleader* is like a satire, okay? *Bring It On* can’t de-

vide what it’s bringing. The repeated homophobic remarks about gay people became quite annoying. At \$7, I paid almost fifty cents a slur.

The gay character’s coming out is sloppily excused by a simpy “that’s nice” attitude to his revelation. Like cheerleading has gay guys in it! Shocking. Don’t they know they all play football?

You can also see Kip in *Champs* where he plays sports with Sylvester Stallone, but in fast exploding cars, not airplanes. They wear those hot zip-up grease monkey overalls.

This is where I insert the quote from the press packet interview and pretend I actually asked Kip a question:

Question: “Kip, can you just tell us about your role in the movie and what your character portrays in the movie as well?”

Kip Pardue: “I play a character who is, you hate hearing the expression a ‘rookie sensation’ but that’s what he is. He comes in with a lot of hype first season on the CART Tour. He comes in as the No. 1 driver for the PacWest Team and just doesn’t fully understand what this sport is all about. He understands the technicalities of the racing; understands how the car works; understands how to make it go faster than anyone else, but doesn’t understand the whole lifestyle that this sport brings about. That is where Sly comes in. Sly’s character comes— is hired actually to help me make the transition and be the racer that I know I can be. So it is all about becoming who you really can be, living up to your potential.”

Unlike the military, where we can’t. We’ll look forward to seeing Kip make that transition, with Stallone coming and helping and all.

When asked how Burt Reynolds was cast in *Champs*, Reynolds replied, “Burgess Meredith is dead.”

Cheer with real live openly gay and lesbian non Exodus-warped cheerleaders at <http://www.CheerSF.org>.

Find out about men’s flag football at (415) 441-7760 by e-mailing dgreg64@aol.com. For women’s football call (415) 282-4232.

See more of Burt in *Gator*. ▼



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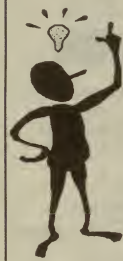
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Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

Today had the following about San Francisco: “Urgent e-mail for dot-commers: Watch where you’re walking—and driving. Since January, 28 pedestrians have been killed crossing the streets of San Francisco, making the tech mecca the state’s most dangerous walking city. The current death toll, which equals 1999’s total, has caught the attention of city officials and residents alike, many of

whom say the techies have injected this once laid-back town with a quick and distracted way of life.” So, you see, even *USA Today* recognizes those insufferable dot-commers have taken over this city—the houses, the apartments, the office spaces, the parking spots, and now even the once-safe streets.

Democratic Party state chair **Art Torres**, once a state senator from the Los Angeles area, now a San Francisco resident (in fact, he’s my neighbor), has served as state Demo chair for the past five

years and probably deserves as much credit as anyone for rebuilding the party in this state. The Democrats now have the governor’s office, two U.S. senators, all but one other statewide office, both houses of the state Legislature, and the congressional delegation. Torres will step down as party chair early next year to take over a foundation that promotes minorities in the cable television industry. The jockeying to replace him as Democratic party boss has already begun.

And how was your week? ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY HEALTH LISTINGS

Send health resource listings to:

Community Health
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

AIDS Community Research Consortium
Conducts HIV and AIDS clinical trials at sites located in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. For a free listing of current trials available, call 800 864-ACRC.

AIDS Dementia CARE Unit
At St. Mary's Medical Center seeks volunteers to visit patients with HIV-related cognitive impairments. Call Stephan Ouellette, MSW, 750-4976.

AIDS Emergency Fund
Provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project
Concerned about HIV, dating, sex, intimacy? Free individual and group counseling & support services for HIV-negative, HIV-positive, and untested gay and bisexual men. For info, call 476-3902.

AIDS/HIV Nightline
Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel
Assists persons w/HIV on legal problems. Incl. wills, powers of attorney, benefits, more. Free or reduced fee. 291-5454.

AIDS Support Group
Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group provides practical, emotional, and, where desired, spiritual support for persons living with AIDS without regard to religious preference, age, race, gender, sexual preference, or disability. Volunteer training provided. For info or to volunteer, call (415) 863-1501.

AIDS Treatment Education Network
Provides free educational forums for people with HIV/AIDS: holistic healing and survival strategies. 284-6237.

Alternative Family Project
"We Are Family," on-going support group for gay men. Tues. & Thurs., 7pm. Call for no-fee intake. 436-9000.

Bay Positives
Provides recreational and emotional support for people up to 26 years old living with HIV. On-going support groups meet weekly. 487-1616.

Breast Cancer Action
Carries the voices of people affected by breast cancer to inspire and connect the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic. For info, call 243-9301.

Cancer Support Group
Based in San Francisco and offers a caregivers support group, a grief group, and counseling for cancer patients, their friends, and families. For info call Brian at 422-2137.

Center for Special Problems
Groups for people with HIV: Gay men's spirituality and healing group beginning 9/28; gay men's mid-life group beginning 9/27; heterosexual men's group beginning 9/28. Must call for times and to pre-register. 292-1521.

Chemically Sensitive & HIV
Support group forming for those allergic to perfumes and chemicals. 922-1348.

Clinica Esperanza
The HIV Clinic at Mission Neighborhood Health Center provides comprehensive bilingual HIV services. Sliding scale fees. 431-3212.

Continuum HIV Day Services

An adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Medical services, counseling, therapy, meals, activities. 241-5500.

Crystal Meth Anonymous

Meetings every: Wed., 8pm at The Meeting Place, 1874 Market; Sat., 9pm, and Sun., 6pm at 529 Clayton. Hotline: 267-9393.

Ellipse-Peninsula AIDS Services

Support groups, emotional & practical buddy program, food program and case management for PWAs in San Mateo Co. (650) 572-9702.

Gay Men's STD/VD Clinic

Testing & treatment by & for gay men, free, every Sun., 5-7pm. HIV antibody anonymous testing for women & men 12 or older, every Sun., 5-7pm. 2339 Durant Ave at Dana, Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. 644-0425 (non-voice TDD 548-8238 for disabled).

Guide-Goodlett HIV/AIDS Project

Free, confidential Orasure HIV antibody testing, Wed. 12-3, 4-8pm. Case management, support groups, AIDS prevention and education. 330 Ellis, Suite 518. 567-2273.

Health Support Services

For PWAs and their caregivers, Wednesdays 6-9pm, Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Registration: 457-3755.

Hepatitis B Testing

And vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men. Free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

Hepatitis C Helpline

Peer support for persons afflicted with hep C. Call 834-4100.

HIV Advocacy Network

Grassroots organizing project of SF AIDS Foundation; phone/fax free action alerts, government lobbying, HIV Policy Watch newsletter. 487-3034.

HIV Employment Rights Project

Legal advice and counseling for people with HIV about their rights in the workplace. Call 593-0035 in the Bay Area and (888) 864-0628 toll-free in California.

HIV/AIDS Risk Reduction Program

Behavior change support group for gay & bi men, focus on speed injection & unsafe sex behaviors. Free. Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic, 1696 Haight. Call Bill or Bonnie, 565-1927.

HIVCare

Offers the latest clinical trials from community-based trial network, access to experimental treatments. Free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6215.

HIV Nutrition Discussion/Support Group

Ongoing monthly meetings at City clinics, call for info: CARE Program Nutritionists, 554-9121.

HIV Positive Drop-In Group

Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

HIV Testing

Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Immune Enhancement Project

Treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Iris Center

Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Last Drag Smoking Cessation

Free quit smoking class for LGBT & HIV-positive smokers. Quit smoking in a confidential and supportive group setting. Classes led by a highly skilled and experienced clinic leader certified by the American Lung Association. Voice mail: (415) 565-7672, ext. 351 or www.lastdrag.org.

Lesbians with Cancer

12 week psycho-social support group at the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, 1748 Market. Classes are offered on a sliding scale basis. Call 565-7672 x370 to register.

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center

Quality, affordable, non-judgmental medical care to women by women, special outreach to lesbian and bisexual women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

Marin Co. STD/HIV Clinics

STD testing, treatment; HIV anonymous testing, treatment. Call 499-7804.

Men's Circle

Despite the painful and distressing events in your past, you can move beyond these experiences and learn to reconnect with others and with living fully and freely again. Come and join other gay/bi men on this journey to freedom. Full Circle Community Counseling. Low fees/free initial intake. 255-0100.

New Leaf

Provides substance abuse, mental health, HIV and senior services for les, gay, bi, and trans community. Info/intake: 626-7000.

OUTInfo

Free HIV info and support using Windows or Macintosh graphic interface. Info: 554-0555 or info@out.org

Pacific Center

Counseling services, social groups for queer youth & adults, sliding scale. 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. (510) 548-6283.

The Positive Center

Free weekly workshops in acupuncture, nutrition, more for Marin CO. residents w/HIV. 535 San Anselmo Ave., San Anselmo. 456-8065.

Positive Resource Center

Provides work referrals and benefits counseling to people with HIV/AIDS. To list a job opening, attend an employment opportunity orientation, or set up an appointment for benefits counseling call 777-0333.

Project Open Hand

Provides free prepared meals, groceries and nutrition counseling for people with symptomatic and disabling HIV disease. Call 1-800-551-6325 for intake information.

Prostate Cancer Resource

Provides the latest treatment information, education, referrals, free P.S.A. screening test for low income men in the community. Call 1-888-983-7833 or e-mail: pc-res@inter.net.

Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida

Counseling and workshops on HIV and other life issues for gay, les, bi and trans Latinos/as. 864-7278.

Psychic Horizons

Free introductory meditation class Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. 2240 Geary Blvd. 346-7906.

PWA Long-Term Survivors

Support group for men: small, friendly, pro-active. Call Carol, 564-1708.

Q Action

Work with other queer boys to stop HIV transmission among young gay and bi men. Info: 431-2427.

Question HIV

Support group, share stories, every Mon., 7pm. Call for location and info. 252-1381.

Radical Women

Business mtg., 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month. 7pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St. 864-1278.

re plen ish

Offers individual and group retreats for professional caregivers in the HIV community. Info: Kay, 864-5140 or write PO Box 410592, SF 94143.

Senior Central

Provides info, referral and assistance to gay and lesbian seniors. Free and confidential services. 360 4th St. 777-3233.

Sex Workers

St. James Infirmary, every Wednesday 6-9pm at City Clinic, 7th and Folsom. Free, non-judgmental health care for sex workers. Men's support group at 7pm on first Wednesday. (415) 554-8474.

Sexual Compulsives

Anonymous. One-hour drop-in 12-step meetings for sexually compulsive men and women every Monday, 7:15pm; Tuesday, 6pm; Friday, 6:30pm at The Meeting Place, 1874 Market. For info, www.sca-recovery.org or (800) 977-HEAL.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic

City Clinic provides free or low cost confidential, comprehensive STD diagnostic and treatment services for anyone 12 years of age or older. The clinic is located at 356 7th Street, between Folsom and Harrison streets and is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8am-4pm, Tuesday from 1-6pm, and Thursday from 1-4pm.

Shanti

Provides practical assistance to people living with AIDS. Volunteer training provided. For info on services, call 674-4700; to volunteer, call 674-4722. New location is in the Project Open Hand building, 730 Polk Street, at Ellis.

Southern Alameda HIV Services

Tri-City Health Center provides comprehensive HIV services, with offices in Fremont and Hayward, (510) 713-6670 and 727-9233, respectively. Spanish and Tagalog spoken.

STD Check-ups

Free testing site given by City Clinic, 2nd Thurs. of each month, 8:30-10:30pm. 8low Buddies, 933 Harrison. 863-4323.

Stonewall Project

A harm reduction program for GBT men who have questions about or issues with speed. Individual or group counseling offered with no requirement that you be clean and sober (or even want to be). Call for daily drop-in times. 3180 18th Street @ Folsom, Suite 202, SF 94110. (415) 502-1999; TTY (415) 502-5724; fax (415) 502-5764.

St. Francis Senior Center

Invites seniors to weekly gatherings, Wed. 10am-2pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. 621-2635.

Survive AIDS

Self-empowerment for AIDS treatment options. Gen'l mtgs. Tues., 7:30pm; treatment issues every other Thurs., 7:30pm. 592 Castro. 252-9200.

Tambayan

Support/social group for queer pinoy and their friends. Every Thurs., 7pm at Filipino Task Force on AIDS, 1540 Market St., Suite 325. 703-9880.

Transgressors in Transition
Alternative Family Project's ongoing support group for transgendered and transsexual folk. Thurs., 7:30pm. 425 Divisadero, Suite 203b. 436-9000.

Transitions

Nonprofit consulting service: guidance, referrals and resources for the dying and their caregivers. Call David Cardenas, 664-6975.

Transcendental Meditation Center

Has scholarships for low income people with HIV. Call Paul Brown at 931-1621.

Transgender Support Group

Multiracial rap group, every first Monday of month. 6:30pm. Call Adela Holiday, Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida, 864-7278.

UCSF AIDS Health Project

Offers: (1) ongoing groups for persons diagnosed with KS; (2) Tues. night support group for women who are caregivers or family members of PWAs; (3) support group for HIV + African-American heterosexual men. Info: 476-3902.

Unity Project

A UCSF study for people living with HIV. Share your experiences as they relate to your health and well-being including stress and coping, problem solving, risk reduction, etc. Participants must be 18 years or older. Cash for eligible participants. Call (415) 597-4669.

Volunteer haircutters needed

For HIV patient services at Davies Med. Ctr. Once a month, 3-hr. shift on Mon. Call Barbara at 565-6374.

We Care Bay Area

Provides emergency financial support to individuals affected by AIDS and other serious illnesses. Requests must be made thru a Bay Area outreach or social service agency. Info: 282-1911.

Weight Watchers Mtg.

Men: 9am Sat, 7pm Wed; Women: 6:30pm, Tues. MCC, 150 Eureka St.

WilCare Hospice

& Home Care offers free 20-hr. training course for volunteers. 2001 Gateway, San Jose. Call (408) 467-0777.

Women's Cancer Resource Center

Support, resource & advocacy group for Bay Area women with cancer, their friends, families. Provides individual peer counseling & drop-in support groups, educational programs, legal workshop & more. 3023 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 548-9272.

Agenerase

A Study for HIV-Positive People with More than 50 CD4 Cells

If you have a CD4 cell count of more than 50, and have never taken Amprenavir (Agenerase), you and your doctor may be interested in this study. If you have already taken several antiviral drugs and qualify to participate, a "virtual" phenotype test can help choose an effective next regimen.

This study compares standard dose Agenerase to low-dose Agenerase combined with Ritonavir.

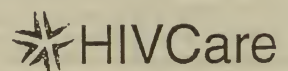
This study lasts 24 weeks; Agenerase and laboratory tests are provided free.

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HIVCare Research Center is a non-profit program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital.



South Africa

◀ page 17

Pretoria should provide antiretroviral drugs to AIDS sufferers in South Africa.

However, TAC leader Zackie Achmat, who is said to be refusing antiretroviral drugs that could save his life until they are made available to all South Africans, challenged Mbeki "to provide any shred of evidence to back up his claims."

Achmat reminded Mbeki that, "It is written in our constitution [TAC bylaws] that we do not accept money from drug companies or from the government."

Although Mbeki has called on his ministers and other party caucus members to stand firmly behind him while he and his government fight off a "foreign conspiracy," interestingly enough, the participants of this meeting did not have a chance to debate the issues raised in the president's address.

Mbeki's government has decided to spend 2 million South African rands (more than \$225,000 U.S.) to explain its AIDS policy, but his health minister, Dr. Tshabalala-Msimang, was recently faced with widespread criticism after it was discovered that her ministry had distributed docu-

ments about yet another "conspiracy theory."

Her officials had, in fact, distributed copies of a chapter of William Cooper's book, *Behold, a Pale Horse*, which claims that the "Illuminati" — "a highly secretive international organization" — introduced AIDS to Africa in 1978 through the smallpox vaccine in an attempt to reduce the African population.

Meanwhile, South Africa's first black president, Nelson Mandela, who retired from politics in June 1999 after choosing Mbeki as his successor, told local media that he subscribes to the "dominant opinion that prevails throughout the world" that HIV is the cause of AIDS. He added that he would only be persuaded otherwise if new scientific research showed "conclusively that that view is wrong."

Mandela advised Mbeki that, "I would like to be careful because for people in our position, when you take a stand, you might find that established principles are undermined, sometimes without scientific backing."

It appears that Mbeki has not been overly influenced by local and international criticism in spite of the fact that 1,600 new HIV-positive cases are recorded daily in this African country. ▼


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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 243045

The following person(s) are doing business as Golden Gate Psychotherapy Service, 2166 Hayes Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an general partnership signed Robert G. Hartford and Beth Y. Silverman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 9/13/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/13/00.

SEPT. 21, 28, OCT. 5, 12 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 243475

The following person(s) are doing business as Rainbow Motorcycle Club, 4308 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Wayne A. Moore. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 9/13/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/13/00.

SEPT. 21, 28, OCT. 5, 12, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 243436

The following person(s) are doing business as Jess Johnson Visual Presentation, 2272 15th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jess Johnson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 9/12/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/12/00.

SEPT. 21, 28, OCT. 5, 12, 2000

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 243578

The following person(s) are doing business as Pacific Coast Mat & Matting Co. 2060 Cesar Chavez, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by co partners signed Alfred Lieberman & Claudine M. Bailey. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 8/01/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/18/00.

SEPT. 28, OCT. 5, 12, 19, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 243595

The following person(s) are doing business as DB Electric, 431 Octavia Street #12m, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed David C. Bossler. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 9/19/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/19/00.

SEPT. 28, OCT. 5, 12, 19, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 243876

The following person(s) are doing business as Jevin Studios, 468 Hickory Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kevin Scott Soderlund. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 05/15/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/02/00.

OCT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 243773

The following person(s) are doing business as Sarita Stuff, 1215 Castro Street Apt. #1, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by an individual signed Sarah Reynolds. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 09/26/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/26/00.

OCT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2000

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. 215087

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Pacific Coast Mat & Matting Co. Located at: 2060 Cesar Chavez Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 6/25/97. This business was conducted by an individual signed Alfred Lieberman.

SEPT. 28, OCT. 5, 12, 19, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 315542

In The Superior Court Of The State Of California In And For The County Of San Francisco. In the matter of the Application of Kevin G. Connolly. For Change of Name. The application of Kevin G. Connolly, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application proposing that his name be changed to Kevin Gerard Connolly-Arce. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of December 2000, at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause way the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCTOBER 5, 12, 19, 26, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 315543

In The Superior Court Of The State Of California In And For The County Of San Francisco. In the matter of the Application of Richard Raul Gonzales. For Change of Name. The application of Ricard Raul Gonzales, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application proposing that his name be changed to Ric Connolly-Arce. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of December 2000, at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause way the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCTOBER 5, 12, 19, 26, 2000

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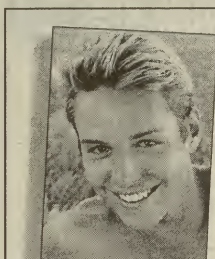
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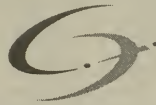
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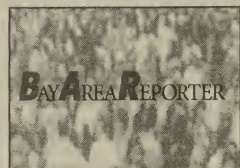
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A Message from Jim Mangia, Gay Independent



Two independent presidential candidates asked for my endorsement. One was Ralph Nader. The other was John Hagelin. I endorsed John Hagelin. Here's why.

I've been a political independent and a gay activist for 20 years. During that time I've worked with the country's most significant independent leaders - from Ross Perot to Dr. Lenora Fulani -- and thousands of grassroots party builders whose names you've never heard. I believe that lesbians and gays are over-identified with the Democratic Party. I have worked to inspire our community to become part of an independent movement for political reform and social unity. The Democratic and Republican Parties are no friends of ours.

I first got to know Ralph Nader when I asked him to challenge Pat Buchanan for the Reform Party nomination. He would not agree to make that challenge. Later Nader asked me to endorse him on the Green Party ticket, which I seriously considered because I respect his outspokenness against corporate America, even though many gay people believe he has been insensitive to our cause.

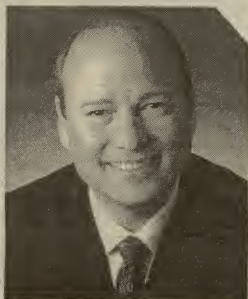
But there is another independent presidential candidate, Dr. John Hagelin, who has been in the party-building trenches since 1992. John did challenge Buchanan for the Reform nomination. He is on the ballot in close to 40 states and recently won the nomination of the country's largest and most inclusionary third party, the Independence Party of New York, with nearly 200,000 members.

John and his running mate Nat Goldhaber, a California-based Internet entrepreneur, are both strongly and unequivocally pro-gay. Most importantly, they believe that the independent movement must open its doors to lesbians and gays. Their brand of independent populism is inclusionary, and they are working hard to promote social unity, not just in words, but in action.

Unfortunately, Ralph Nader has failed to reach out to build bridges between constituencies and within the independent movement. He refused to participate in an independent debate hosted by Gov. Jesse Ventura, projecting that he was too much of a "big shot" to join other significant independents on the stage. He did appear on Meet the Press with Pat Buchanan, but did not utter a word to challenge him - either on Buchanan's positions or his destructive actions in independent politics.

The last thing the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities need is more big shotism. We've seen plenty of that in gay politics already. For independent politics to be successful, it's got to be a movement that's inclusive of all Americans! John Hagelin and Nat Goldhaber are the presidential and vice presidential candidates of that grassroots movement.

Join me in voting Hagelin/Goldhaber on **Tuesday, November 7**. It's a vote for a new political day for lesbian and gay America.



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'Frio in Rio' Tour 2000

Out There's adventures in Rio de Janeiro, home of the Girl (and Boy) from Ipanema.
page 30

Lusty ladies organizing

'Live Nude Girls UNITE!' continues its Roxie run.
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Mercy and mayhem

Cinematheque surveys Abigail Child's films.
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BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 30 • No. 41 • 12 October 2000



Tim Caldwell and David Slattengren of City Swing share a kiss on the SS Jeremiah O'Brien.

City Swing with Gail Wilson aboard the SS Jeremiah O'Brien ahoy!

Ships
by Heidi Beeler

When ships from the Navy's Third Fleet sailed into the San Francisco Bay for Fleet Week's Parade of Ships last Friday, they were met by a piece of their own history. The WWII liberty ship SS Jeremiah O'Brien, the only ship from the D-Day Armada still in operation, saluted the flotilla with a terrific blast of her bullfrog horn, gray guns bristling from prow and stern, colored flags whipping in the wind, and an 18-piece big band in tuxedos and red bowties playing "Anchors Away" on deck.

The event was the first of three Fleet Week fundraisers for the SS Jeremiah O'Brien, and the debut performance of City Swing with Gail Wilson aboard a military vessel. Every year, each day of a long weekend, the O'Brien takes a passel of some 800 passengers out onto the Bay, feeds them a catered gourmet lunch, and gives them a gander at sights around the Bay and inside her own historic hull for \$100 a head. Proceeds go toward maintaining this now unique bit of mass-produced history. To help set the old ship in her WWII context, a big band is installed on the milky-gray deck to perform live swing music.

As a trumpeter in City Swing, I was jazzed, literally and figuratively, to be part of the ship's window trappings. Our first time out on this gig, we didn't know what to expect. No matter what surprises the crowd, crew or weather had for us, though, we were returning our music to the setting of its heyday, and that idea was a kick.

Swing was to WWII what rock was to Viet Nam. Although jazz had been developing for decades in the clubs and hotels of New Orleans, Harlem, Chicago and Kansas City, WWII was the period when jazz — Big Band swing in particular — went mainstream. Think WWII, and mixed in among battle scenes will be images of khaki-clad GIs jitterbugging with local girls, the Andrews Sisters crooning in seamed hose, and a bespectacled Glenn Miller leading his band for the last time before his plane crashes into the English Channel, a jazz war hero. It was an era when jazzmen — albeit, an inordinate number of white jazzmen — were stars, and folks dressed to the teeth to dance in their glittering ballrooms.

Performing for a \$100-a-plate luncheon banquet in tuxedo and cummerbund, I'd expected this crowd to have an air of that glamour. Looking out over the heads of the trombone players, I saw yellow slickers, mountain parkas, hats, scarves, mittens, pea coats — dress better-suited to whale-watching than ballroom dancing. And with fog billowing and a stiff wind blowing off the ocean, who could blame them? From our bandstand, a platform above a cargo hatch between two gray, corrugated-metal life rafts with a network of lines and metal cables strung overhead, I realized our tuxedos and our tunes

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Lemon's 'Tree' New performance at YBC

by Alex Robertson Textor

Ralph Lemon's evening-length performance *Tree* comes to San Francisco this week as part of a nationwide tour.

Ralph Lemon has worked as a choreographer, director and dancer professionally since the mid-1970s. In 1985, he founded the Ralph Lemon Company, which toured for a decade both inside and outside the US. The Ralph Lemon Company was very successful as a touring dance ensemble, netting multiple residences, grants and commissions.

Despite these successes, the world of a traditional dance company eventually weighed on Lemon. In 1995, he dissolved his dance company and began a series of ambitious collaborations. "I wanted to challenge myself," he said in a recent interview. "I had a conventional modern or postmodern dance company. It became clear to me that that was it, that it was only going to be more of the same. I could foresee the work I would be doing in the future, and it didn't interest me."

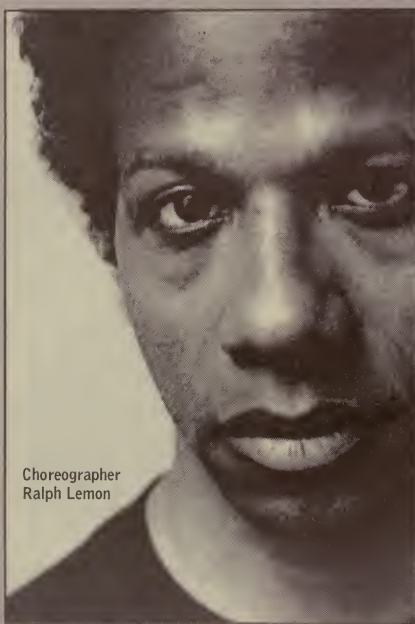
Working within this fairly traditional framework with a stable group of dancers created definite limitations: "I couldn't work with artists from different places. And in that capacity, I couldn't deal with blatant racial issues or social politics, either."

The collaborative projects Lemon has undertaken have been varied. In 1996, Wesleyan University Press published *Persephone*, a collaborative book featuring writing by Lemon and poems by Rita Dove and Eavan Boland among others. In 1996, he collaborated on *Konbit*, a video documentary collage of the Haitian community in Miami.

Lemon cites the research done for *Konbit* as the beginning of the *Geography Trilogy*, of which *Tree* is the middle component. "I was beginning to deal with how more traditional cultures are transformed by modernity-slash-America. I'm interested in what goes on with traditional cultures as they encounter modernity. What happens? What gets maintained? What dies? What resurfaces? What gets created anew?"

The performance series the *Geography Trilogy* is the most ambitious

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Choreographer
Ralph Lemon

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Roberto Friedman
and Carrie O'Cah

Yes, there is celebrity and glamour a-plenty when you fly down to Rio, and last month there was also Out There. Italian diva **Sophia Loren** was checking into the Presidential Suite of the Sheraton as we checked out, but our digs at the 5-star Caesar Park Hotel right on Ipanema beach were good enough for us! Eternal fame where **McDonna** ("Billions & billions served") loves slurping oysters at fashionable Satyricon, but OT was well-satisfied with an elegant lunch at the Museum of the Republic, overlooking the lush gardens of the Catete Palace.

The Palace was the seat of government back when Rio de Janeiro was the capital of Brazil. Now it's the capital of pampered tourists, but so what? Rio has a bad reputation for crime and rampant poverty, which was the reason its travel bureau brought OT and other presshounds to earthly Paradise to see for ourselves. All we can say is we never felt unsafe, even in the center of Rocinha, a favela of 40,000 souls high in the hills above the playboy playgrounds. That's where doomed lover **Orfeu** fell from the cliff to his death in *Black Orpheus*, children! (Orfeu, the Brazilian-produced version, opens at the Lumiere next month.)

Of course, we were mostly cloistered in a protective press bubble, but being the footloose sort, we also broke away to prowl the streets at night, between Copacabana disco and Ipanema boite, and never felt like a target, or anything less than stimulated by the beauty — and the beauties — surrounding us.

For you, dear readers, we did our best to sniff out the gay nightspots and playpens. In this our willing accomplice was Uruguayan-born *LA Frontiers* editor-in-chief **Monica Trasandes**,



A soggy view of Rio de Janeiro from the heights of Sugarloaf mountain.

a sporting companion for South American thrills.

These included a tug by funicular tram up to the heights of Sugarloaf; day trips out of town to the *Fazendas Arvoredo* and *Ponte Alta*, coffee plantations on palatial estates; and a tear by speedboat across the *Baía de Guanabara* to the island of *Paqueta*. But if we know our readers,

they are more interested to hear about other pursuits.

Our nighttime crawl through the working-class Botafogo district turned up gay life at the *Loch Ness*, a karaoke bar where the bartender is half-Brazilian, half-Scottish, and whose nephew **Robert** lives in SF. If you are reading this, **Robt.**, phone home.

Right in front of the old-school glamorous Copacabana Palace Hotel is *Copa's* "gay beach"; in the Ipanema district, you can find the gay beach near *Posto 9*. Brazilians wear nothin' but their speedos or *tangas* (dental-floss bikinis) and a smile when they infiltrate the cafés

for their after-beach drinks: at *Botafoda*, in *Ipa*; at *Maxim's*, in *Copa*.

No one at all was at the legendary *Le Boy* disco when we arrived, unfashionably early, 'round Midnight; but within 15 minutes, the place was stuffed to the rafters with all sorts of beautiful men — talk about a herd instinct. The strip show chock full of Brazilian beef started at 2 a.m., and involved a drag queen in a bunny suit for reasons lost to us behind the language barrier. OT did pick up a bit of the Portuguese tongue — his name was **Flavio**, but we don't like to brag in print. *Le Boy* also has the largest disco ball we have ever seen, and believe you us, OT has seen a lot of balls.

Stormy weather

Seminal bossa nova composer **Baden Powell** died on a gray, rainy day the week we were in Rio (his music lubed up *A Man and a Woman*). Powell was a key figure in the jazzy samba music that took the world by storm in '66; his funeral snaked through the drizzly city streets. If you go to Rio, even when it's *frio*, be prepared to hear "The Girl from Ipanema," most

famous of the bossa novas, composed by national heroes **Antonio Carlos Jobim** and **Vinicius de Moraes**, more than you probably

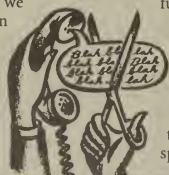
want. You can even go to the pub in Ipanema where the tune was supposedly scrawled on a napkin.

Brazilians were watching the Olympics last month like everyone else, but they were not having an especially good time of it. Their once-renowned soccer team lost early on to tiny Cameroon, and the returning players were greeted at the International Airport with jeers and boos. For their own health and well-being, the coaches stayed on in Miami until the heat died down.

With municipal elections scheduled for the weekend we left, Rio was papered over with political ads. In Brazil, you are required to vote — you're fined if you don't. We think we should try this system in the US: more Republicans would certainly find themselves voted into twilight careers.

Vegetarians, skip this paragraph or prepare to be spitting mad. At the restaurant *Marius*, in the Leme district, charming waiters brandish skewers full of juicy meat, which they slice onto your plate at the merest indication of interest. Beef, lamb, pork — and

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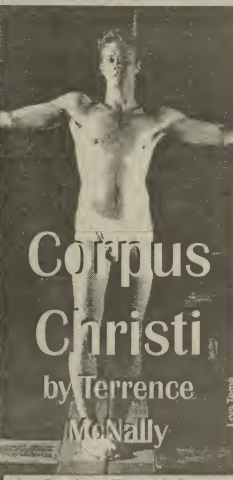
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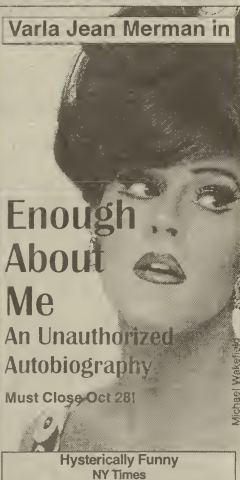
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Abuse-a-go-go

'Hot 'n' Throbbing' grinds away at Venue 9

by Richard Dodds

Since a creator of pornography becomes the victim of domestic violence in Paula Vogel's *Hot 'n' Throbbing*, it's reasonable to suppose that these two issues will somehow be linked. But the bridge is a rickety one at best, leaving audiences disturbed by the onstage happenings but unclear about the forces that provoked them.

Hot 'n' Throbbing is a play that spent a lot of time in Vogel's trunk until *How I Learned to Drive* provided an impetus to explore the works that had come before that Pulitzer Prize-winning success. The free-floating Paducah Mining Company is offering the first San Francisco production of this deeply flawed yet sporadically engrossing play.

In the simplest terms, this is the story of a woman, estranged from her alcoholic, abusive husband, who writes scripts for classy porn movies in order to pay the bills. The play seems to imply that her teenage son and daughter are sexually confused because of her vocation, though their idiosyncrasies surely were imprinted long before she began typing up her libidinous scenarios.

When her husband reappears, ignoring a restraining order, she shoots him in the butt and then comforts him. "I will not participate in enabling behavior," she declares before proceeding to do just



Laconia Koerner and Titus France in *Hot 'n' Throbbing*

that. They both acknowledge that a trip to the emergency room is imperative, but it doesn't prevent them from snuggling, having cocktails, and even going in for a little fantasy role-playing before emotions becoming dangerously enraged.

It's unclear what Vogel is up to here, though a view of men as sexual animals and women as victim/provocateurs isn't hard to

miss. While the core story is played realistically, Vogel has layered on various stylistic devices that become more distractions than enhancements. At times, the cinematic creations that the wife is imagining are played out by her family members. And on each side of the stage, two "voices" — a deejay and a peepshow dancer — provide a kind of murky running commentary.

Director Susannah Martin's production is at its best in the scenes between husband and wife as a kind of creepy courtship is played out. Annan Paterson has a natural warmth as the wife, while Don Wood possesses a bracing intensity as her husband. As their children, Laconia Koerner is more successful at suggesting the Lolita-like daughter than Titus France is at creating their awkwardly adolescent son. Chantel Lucier is a sultry presence with a seductive voice as the peepshow muse, though Jake Rodriguez's narra-

tions can be hard to decipher as he spins vinyl from an onstage deejay booth.

There is an enticingly un-PC premise lurking in *Hot 'n' Throbbing* — that women must shoulder responsibility for their abuse — but Vogel shadow dances with her subject. She never quite lands the knockout blow. ▼

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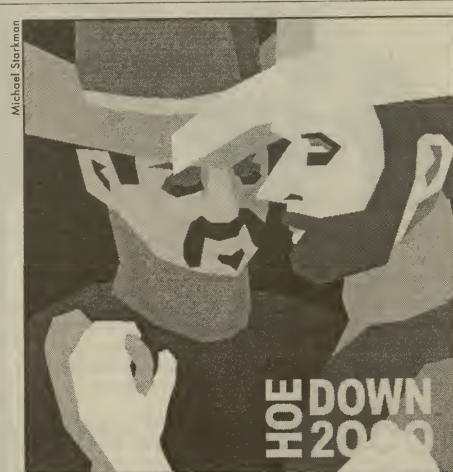


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Sister spirit

SF Opera's 'Dead Man Walking'

by Stephanie von Buchau

The September issue of *Opera News* caused a mini-scandal by "reviewing" Jake Heggie's new opera, *Dead Man Walking*, from a vocal score, months before it was produced at the War Memorial Opera House. Ethics aside, the writer made a strong point about the dubious nature of raw realism in opera. Still, he didn't go far enough.

Heggie's opera — to a libretto by Terrence McNally, based on the memoir of Sister Helen Prejean — opens with a rape and two murders, on stage, dimly perceived to be sure, but graphic enough. It ends with Joseph, the convicted murderer, being strapped to a gurney where a lethal injection is administered. We then hear electronic sounds, suitable to sci-fi, until he dies. At no point in these two grisly scenes is there any vocal music and only minimal orchestral intervention.

Rapes, murders, executions do not bother me on the operatic stage. All three take place in Puccini's *Tosca*. But Puccini writes music to accompany them; think about *Tosca*'s nervous asides during Cavaradossi's execution. If a composer feels that certain scenes cannot be set to music, then they don't belong in an opera, even a "CNN Opera," to use critic Peter G. Davis' memorable phrase. If those two scenes were rewritten — or better, excised — and the opera were allowed to end at its natural climax — the powerful choral scene based on the title phrase, "Dead man walking," magnificently conducted by Patrick Summers — this would be a finer piece.

I've heard the rumor (unverifiable at my late deadline) that the reason the lethal injection scene is allowed to produce a sour anti-climax, after that stupendous ensemble, is that the families of the murder victims would not give permission unless they got "closure." Somehow I feel there exists a legal way around this roadblock, especially since Sister Helen's book takes all kinds of liberties with time and characters. If so, SFO, Heggie and McNally have allowed their excellent work to be diminished in the name of realism and compromise.

Chill factor

Heggie's genuine operatic talent, as least as assessed from his



Susan Graham in San Francisco Opera's *Dead Man Walking*

songs and one hearing of *Dead Man* — SFO refused to allow critics at the dress rehearsal, although dozens of civilians apparently attended — seems to be more for domestic drama than for high falutin' stuff about redemption and God's love. Sister Helen, the Louisiana nun who opposed the death penalty, became spiritual advisor to several Death Row inmates and was the subject of a 1995 film by Tim Robbins (who attended the premiere), may be an admirable woman in real life, but as portrayed by Susan Graham in the opera, she's rather chilly and remote. Her inability to empathize with the families of the victims, while expending gobs of emotional energy on "loving" the killer, makes her an opaque heroine at best.

I never did figure out what Graham (and director Joe Mantello, who got everybody to act naturally) was aiming at. I'm opposed to the death penalty for the very reason that Joseph cites: If he was wrong to kill, then why isn't the State wrong to kill him? (Don't try to think of an answer; there isn't one.) Yet when Sister Helen dithers with the victim's families, or goes on at Joseph about how

"The truth shall set you free" (the real murderers maintained their innocence), she makes me squirm and feel as if the death penalty might be justified. John Packard's Joseph is a real find physically — baritones who look like jailbirds don't grow on trees — but he impressed less with singing and acting than he did with his ability to clap his hands while off the ground during pushups.

It is Joseph's miserable mother (Frederica von Stade) who commands our sympathy. This pathetically dysfunctional woman, with two sons in jail and two incipient thugs at home, has, as von Stade quaintly puts it, "Been out to lunch while her boys were growing up." She still is, poignantly baking her son cookies which the authorities will not allow her to bring into the jail. Wearing baggy blue jeans, von Stade displays the bewildered vulnerability of a limited, ignorant, hopeless woman. During her two big scenes, I was bawling like a baby, which struck me as odd afterward because Sister Helen's moral dilemma and Joseph's picaresque attempts at redemption left me dry-eyed.

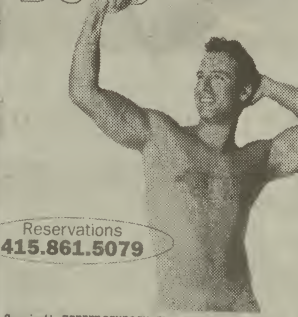
This is why I hear Heggie as a purveyor of domestic drama. It is in the small vocal gestures, the tiny increments of human pain, the gently expressive orchestral interludes (reminiscent of Debussy, but then *Pelléas et Mélisande* is the finest domestic soap opera ever written) that Heggie's operatic writing becomes touching and honest. Much less effective are the grand solos; I didn't believe any of the redemption and God's love blather. What works grandly are the ensembles. Here is a composer who may employ Britten as a template — there are intimations of *Billy Budd* in the prisoners' choruses, and of the *War Requiem* in the massive choral finale — but whose part-writing and rhythmic energy are strictly original and very effective. ▼

Dead Man Walking continues in repertory through Oct. 28 at the War Memorial Opera House. Call 864-3330.

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Gallery picks and open studios

Report from First Thursday in October

by Will Shank

Welcome to a Second Thursday view of the First Thursday in October! All of these galleries share the prestigious address of 49 Geary Street.

At Stephen Wirtz, an intriguing installation by local sculptor Kathryn Pence takes the gruesome, muddled-over Winnie-the-Pooh stuffed animals which are in the collection of SFMOMA a few steps in a different direction. Following on the 1997 exhibition of *Pigeons* at Wirtz, this time Pence has filled the gallery with clusters of tiny, tattered birds here and there on the floor and table tops. Made of discarded bits of fabric,

and trailing unraveled threads behind them, some of the birds are headless, and some fail to stand upright. In the same gallery, tiny stacks of discarded textile remnants are neatly piled on miniature sofas. Others, attached to tiny hangers, await a Lilliputian maid to walk through the door of the gallery. On the far wall, a photo blow-up enlarges one of the tiny sofas to life-size; the effect, once the realization sets in that the original is Barbie-sized, is a startling one. Pence's use of trash to create works of art presents profound food for thought about the disenfranchisement of her sad little birds and animals, in a city where street people are treated as so much human refuse.

Waiting tantalizingly around

the corner in Wirtz is a new work by Deborah Oropallo, whose earlier paintings, criss-crossed by railroad track patterns, are on view as part of the Anderson Collection down the street at SFMOMA. Trying something new here, the artist has adhered collage elements of digital enlargements of oil drums to large canvases, and then partially obscured them with an acid-green mesh pattern. It's a promise of things to come in a show of her new work at Wirtz in January 2001.

Toomey Tourell Gallery has hung a solo exhibition of the three-dimensional paintings of Stephanie Weber. The geometric compositions project and recede gently toward and away from the viewer, their different layers stay-

ing mostly in the plane parallel to the gallery wall.

The striated surfaces lend a certain horizontality to the look of all of the paintings, and the occasional bevel creates an exciting departure from her right angles.

Primarily a colorist, Weber uses high-quality, German-made powdered pigments, which she mixes with oil, acrylic or wax media, and their effect is rich. I asked the artist about two apparent sculptures, displayed on a table top. They are, in fact, two more panel paintings which did not fit on the wall, but their ramp-like structure makes them work just as well as sculptures.

October is Artists' Open Studios month, and this year is the 25th anniversary of the once-a-

year opportunity to invade the work-spaces of painters, sculptors, photographers, and print-makers throughout the Bay Area.

That other free weekly, the *Bay Guardian*, is printing a map of the studios each week in October. This year there is also a free 112-page magazine titled *The Guide to San Francisco Open Studios*, which features illustrations of most of the artists' work. And Som-ARTS Gallery, 923 Brannan, is showing samples of artwork by Open Studios artists through October 29. Visit www.sfopenstudios.com.

A San Francisco highlight at October's First Thursday: watching gallery owner Brian Gross evict a woman visitor who was smoking a cigarette—a cigarette!—from his gallery full of beautiful mono-

chrome paintings (*Something in the Air*) by Patrick Wilson. Well, okay, he just evicted her cigarette, but... really! This is not *Europe*! ▼

Stephanie Weber, *Structural Series*, 1999

Out There

◀ page 30

for the adventurous: alligator, wild boar and frog. You telegraph your relative hunger by turning a signal on your table from green (bring it on!) to yellow (slow down, we've popped a button) to red (stop with the food chain already!)

But you can eat well in Rio without an expense account. Just sidle up to a corner *confeitaria*, and for a few *reals* you can order sandwiches, fresh tropical juices and pastries, and gobble them down at the counter.

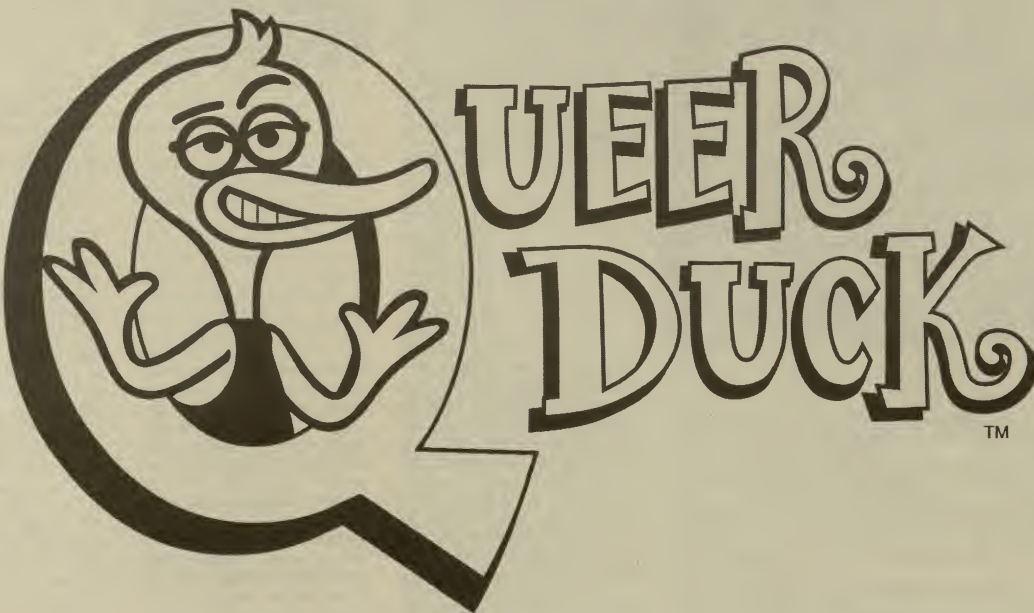
We lunched in the Botanical Gardens district in a place popular with employees from the nearby offices of Globo, the Brazilian broadcasting empire rivaled in size only by the US networks and the BBC. British journalist Paul Rambali observed that the big US networks "are prohibited by law from producing more than 10% of what they broadcast—laws designed to avoid concentrating power and profits. Brazil has no such laws." That makes Globo powerful indeed.

One word of advice should you ever visit Rio, and you should: the universal Brazilian symbol for

"Yeah!" or "Right on!" is thumbs up. If you want to signal this sentiment, do not make the Anglo OK sign with thumb and forefinger. To a Brazilian, this means, roughly translated, "Up yours!" a threat or a promise you don't want to convey unless you have the means and the will to follow through. ▼

Lauro Cavalcanti and Malu Fatorelli present *Contemporary Art and Architecture in Rio de Janeiro*, Nov. 6, 7 p.m. at CCAC, 1111 8th St. Call 703-9562.

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Life in the sexual workplace

The making of 'Live Nude Girls UNITE!'

by David Lamble

A young woman walks jauntily past City Lights Bookstore, turns the corner at Columbus and Broadway, and practically skips all the way to work. Once inside the door of a neon-lit storefront at 1033 Kearny, Julia Query punches a timeclock, puts on a uniform and goes on duty in a small room that resembles a fish tank, where, for four to eight hours, she'll repeat the same task over and over again.

Three thousand miles away, a middle-aged woman drives a specially equipped white van through the darkened streets of New York. Her eyes darting from side to side, Dr. Joyce Wallace is on duty at her second job, maintaining a mobile assistance unit dispensing condoms and advice to hundreds of female prostitutes. On this night, Wallace has company. Neatly buckled up in the shotgun seat sits 20/20's Barbara Walters. The ABC anchor grabs a box of condoms from the floor of the van. "It says, 'Kiss of Mint.'"

"That's for oral sex," Wallace dryly observes.

"I see," Walters primly replies.

If you call Julia Query's workplace, you'll hear the sultry voice of a young woman advertising the Lusty Lady as "the best place to fuck while watching feminist strippers — beautiful, smart and unionized."

"Feminist stripper" was probably not in Dr. Wallace's vocabulary as she raised her precocious daughter, Julia, born one day before Dr. King was murdered in Memphis. Julia remembers her mom popping up on TV a lot, in service to her desire to give poor women an alternative to prostitution. Julia obeyed her mother's wish that she attend graduate school, but, despite good grades, she felt she didn't fit in. Later, she dropped out and landed in San Francisco, where, at a friend's urging, she applied for work at the Lusty Lady.

Julia had screwed up her courage to come out to her mother as a lesbian, but coming out as a stripper, even a union-organizing feminist stripper, was pushing it. Ultimately, Query discovered that the news could only be delivered while she and her mother were starring in a rather special movie, as the subplot in a funky little agitprop documentary she would shoot while trying to organize her job: *Live Nude Girls UNITE!*, now playing at the Roxie Cinema.

Over the line

While primarily an attempt to document and extol the benefits of a union contract for the female exotic dancers nightly gyrating in the Lusty Lady's glass booths (where male customers can cop a peek for 15 seconds per quarter), the shooting of *Live Nude Girls UNITE!* became a combination diary and daily conscious-raising session for women whose stage names (Summer, Amnesia, Ambrosia, Decadence) read like a manual of popular names for '70s hippie kids. The film would also spark a generational battle of wills between daughter and mother about the aims, means and limits of feminist activism. Now, mind you, this was a mother who had proudly introduced Julia to such streetwalker freedom-fighters as Harlot Scarlot and Margo St. James (founder of the prostitute forerunner to ACT UP, COYOTE), but the idea of her daughter enlisting in what Mom would probably see as a kind of boot camp for hookers was way over the line.

Live Nude Girls UNITE! is in part the story of how the inmates took over the asylum, and in part an account of the sometimes bewildering changes ratcheting through the live sex industry. Ultimately, the film details the evolution of a relationship between a fiercely independent daughter and



A scene from *Live Nude Girls UNITE!*, by Julia Query and Vicky Funari

a radical but oddly traditional mother over the terms in which that daughter would enter the family business — the social revolution that will be televised.

Query and the film's co-director, Vicky Funari, assert that while many sex club owners pose as gangsters trying "to pretend that they're big nasty guys," when push comes to shove, "they're just fat." Query and Funari add that intimidation at the Lusty Lady tended to be linguistic. The club's female owner was a follower of EST, which was the philosophical bedrock for her war against the union: "You have to take responsibility for yourself, I don't have to give you healthcare."

Query learned there was trouble in paradise one day when she punched in a few minutes late and lost a scheduled raise. Because the Lusty Lady promoted itself as a women-run business, the club tended to attract strong, radically minded dancers ("I never worked with so many women with college degrees") who found that stripping paid more than office work ("with lower dry-cleaning bills") and offered flexible hours conducive to pursuing a writing or artistic career on the side. Also, many of the Lusty Lady's dancers preferred the peep show format, where male customers were walled off behind glass, to the more hands-on atmosphere of the lucrative lap-dancing clubs, where women were frequently pushed over the already thin line between striptease and coerced prostitution.

Dirty secrets

One of the dirtiest little secrets in the sex business centers on the use of racial and physical quotas to determine how many shifts a woman can work. Dark-skinned dancers weren't allowed to work the private session, big-bucks part of the Lusty Lady, and dancers who wanted to take a day off (there were no sick days) had to find a substitute employee whose

skin was as light or lighter, and whose breast size was the same or bigger. A hilarious segment of the film consists of a Lusty Lady male manager explaining how the club was planning to implement its own erotic diversity plan ("Yes, there are women of color in the real world, and some customers actually desire them.") Another hot-button issue was customers using video cameras to secretly record the dancers. One such incident resulted in the physical assault of a dancer; another time, a customer flashed a gun in the private-sessions room.

Query's early attempts to shoot her film left a lot to be desired. "If I thought I knew what I was doing, I was delusional," she told the *BAR*. One of the finished film's devices is Query's own rad-dyke standup comedy, which acts as a Seinfeld-like running commentary on the campaign to get a union; but some of this early footage was shot with a very shaky handheld camera. Just when all seemed lost, Query met Funari, a filmmaker who financed an earlier feature dancing at the Lusty Lady, and who was itching to make a film of the impending labor scuffle. Query argues that *Live Nude Girls*, in its final, relatively polished form, illustrates that "no matter how poor you are, you can make activist media." To which Funari quips, "It also shows if you reshot half the footage, it comes out really well."

The first job for Query and Funari was scrambling to find footage documenting the straws that had broken these strippers' backs. A clever solution was to film the union side of the marathon bargaining sessions, dubbed "reverse therapy" by the dancers who found themselves trapped for 12 hours in a room with the aesthetics of a car wash while an anti-union lawyer lectured them on using the word pussy: "I wouldn't let my daughters say it, why should I let you?"

page 38 ►

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FILM

Child's play

Filmmaker Abigail Child unearths found footage

by Gary Morris

Since the 1970s, experimental filmmaker Abigail Child has been engaged in a kind of cultural archaeology, recycling and updating approaches to cinema that recall the silent days, and unearthing found footage from such disparate sources as industrial films, vacation and home movies, porn loops, and snippets from forgotten B-movies. While this approach suggests the reactionary, the result is in fact quite the opposite. Child's work, on display in a retrospective from San Francisco Cinematheque, is the subtlest form of agitprop, powerfully exploring very modern issues of gender and class through early (and present-day, for that matter)

cinema's primary artistic strategy: montage. Also like silent film, Child's work shows an unconscious delight in the visual.

The all black-and-white *Perils* (one wants to supply of *Pauline*) is a typical effort, engaging the viewer with a dizzying parody of silent film that shows her characters in a variety of portentous poses and fragmented melodramas. Child's juxtapositions here are more whimsical than disturbing, with rapid-cut mock fights and mysterious rituals interrupted briefly by simple titles ("1," "2," "Earlier"). Child's use of sound is wildly inclusive and constantly challenging, incorporating everything from fugitive piano figures to drama-queen screams in overdub, and adding a pleasurable disorienting layer of meaning.

Mayhem, running 20 minutes, works some of the same territory but adds bits of film noir imagery to its secretive story of inexplicable crimes. Child tantalizes the viewer with stark black-and-white images, again rapidly intercut with all manner of bizarre footage of people running frantically up and down stairs or making out on a rooftop. Japanese hard-core porn from what looks like the 1930s adds to the fun, as a naked lesbian tryst is interrupted by a masked man. Significantly, a straightforward male sexual fantasy is upended as the dykes force the masked man to cater to them. Apparently inspired by that heady duo the Marquis de Sade and Russian formalist filmmaker Dziga Vertov, *Mayhem* has a shotgun editing style that rains over the viewer like confetti.



Sheila Dabney in Abigail Child's *B/side*

Did she or didn't she?

'Contender' as cocksucker

by Robert Julian

Hollywood plays another game of political "what if" with the release of *The Contender*, an exceedingly high-minded opus about the confirmation hearing of a female nominee for Vice President. The lady in question is portrayed by Joan Allen, an actress incapable of giving a bad performance. The story is written and directed by former film critic Rod Lurie, and one can only imagine the Faustian bargain Lurie must have made with Hollywood to get this story to the screen. *The Contender*, in spite of its glossy production values and good performances, is a fundamentally preposterous tale that insists on having it both ways. While fairly reeking of moral rectitude and white liberal political values, it wallows in gutters of its own creation.

The President (Jeff Bridges) appoints Senator Laine Hansen (Allen) as Vice President after the death of the original office-holder. But the appointment is vehemently opposed by right-wing Republican Senator Shelley Runyon (Gary Oldman) and junior Congressman Reginald Webster (Christian Slater), who both sit on the confirmation committee. Both men would prefer the nomination of Governor Jack Hathaway (William Petersen), and they launch an investigation into the personal life of Senator Hansen with intent to kill, politically speaking. They allege the Senator, at the age of 19, participated in a college orgy, and post the story on the Internet, complete with photos. This is the first volley in their smear campaign. Subsequent gratuitous references to cocksucking demonstrate clearly that, in Hollywood, moral rectitude is only tolerable when it is counterbalanced with the kind of lurid debauchery that sells tickets.

Only the presence of white hats could make the task of identifying the good guys easier. The long-suffering nominee is the soul



Joan Allen in *The Contender*

of virtue, the evil Senator Runyon is a direct lift from the School of Orrin Hatch, and the President, who considers White House room service the great perk of his career, is a hip boomer who jokes his way through the movie until it's time to play his political trump card, followed by *The Great Speech*. There are ample opportunities for thinking viewers to question ridiculous plot points, although most will be willing to go along for the ride. However, near the end of the film, when Joan Allen's character has a chat on the White House lawn with the President, anyone paying attention will realize it is a discussion her character would never have.

Rod Lurie's direction is more assured than his writing, and he extracts good performances from the cast. Gary Oldman is a revelation as Senator Runyon, and his Oscar nomination will be well-deserved, as will Joan Allen's. There will be lots of nominations for this film, although the little gold man will probably go home with others. There is just something unbearably counterfeit about this film — as if the producers, plotting to take home Oscar gold, were forced to make a movie in order to get it. ▼

The Contender opens Friday.

Wrestling men

Perils and *Mayhem* are part of an ongoing series of shorts — "detachable" in the words of their author — called *Is This What You Were Born For?* Another entry in that series is *Mercy* (1987), clocking in at a mere 10 minutes but packed with powerful, often arresting images. Child's whimsy is in full tilt here, interweaving shots from home movies, industrial film, and various kinds of found footage into a witty collage. The film authoritatively inverts the Kodak Moments syndrome in its brief running time. A faded color scene of a soldier running to the

arms of his family, probably shot in the 1950s, carries the voiceover, "How does it feel to see your son become a man?"

Child answers that question with images that bring up many more questions: two sweaty pro wrestlers going at it; a bronco busting a steer; high school boys wrestling; masses of faceless men at some undisclosed event; and more charmingly, boys in dance class. The spiraling of images has an almost vertiginous effect, but some of them linger long enough

to unsettle, as in the shot of a naked man from what looks like old medical footage becoming increasingly agitated as a siren wails ever-louder in the background.

Child says, "I started as a leftist documentarian, but I quickly grew tired of the limits inherent in the documentary structure." *B/side*, at 38 minutes a long work for Child, is a documentary of sorts, in the author's words "an experiment in entering imaginatively the delirium of the Lower East

next page ►

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Team player

A straight actor's gay pitch

by Jim Provenzano

Tim Olyphant is a bit distracted by the televised tennis match, which we watch between questions. As Venus Williams defeated an opponent, Olyphant discussed his role as Dennis, the male lead in Greg Berlanti's new film *The Broken Hearts Club*, which co-stars Dean Cain (*Superman*), John Mahoney (*Frasier*) and Andrew Keegan (*Party of Five*).

After a "21-day shoot in Los Angeles and thereabouts" to film *The Broken Hearts Club*, Olyphant traveled with writer/director Greg Berlanti to do a few interviews as Sony Pictures Classics released the romantic comedy.

With film credits ranging from the critically acclaimed *Go* to action pics *Gone in 60 Seconds* and *Scream 2*, the USC art school graduate has also graced the stages of some acclaimed New York plays, including David Sedaris' one-man theatrical version of his humor essay "Santalaland Diaries."

As Olyphant talked about sports and acting, despite convincingly portraying an affable gay photographer pushing 30, he proved himself utterly straight, but in a nice way. *Pins* author and sports columnist Jim Provenzano talked with him in San Francisco.

Jim Provenzano: Had you played softball before filming *The Broken Hearts Club*?

Timothy Olyphant: I did play in New York one summer. I was alright at it. It was a fun thing to do in New York in parks. I was pretty decent at it.

The fun thing about the film is that it was about a lousy sports team. There are so many sports teams, but a lot of softball teams with varying levels of competence and enthusiasm.

There are gay softball leagues?

"Oh, yeah, dozens.

Wait, wait, wait. There's a gay league? There's more lesbians than men, huh?

It's one of the oldest and biggest gay and lesbian sports.

So, let's say a gay team is like, you know, lousy. Do they get some straight guys as like, ringers?

Sometimes. It's not that they're straight. They sometimes get better players.

That they go outside the gay community to get some players. That's funny.

Soccer teams get South American guys who are excellent, but not necessarily gay. It's inclusive.

But aren't you being outed by playing on the team?

On the gay wrestling club, we wrestle guys who aren't gay. For some straight guys, when it's off-season, they have no other place to practice.

That's actually really fascinating; a straight guy who wrestles on a gay team. Of all sports, I'd think it's the most gay.

Actually, more gay people play volleyball and softball.

I'm sorry. I have some questions. My first instinct is, "Come on!" You buy that?

Well, there are some straight guys who don't mind being with gay people. *Broken Hearts* really captured the dynamic of a gay group like that at the restaurant run by John Mahoney's character. Have you talked to some other people in the cast about WeHo?

We What?

WeHo. West Hollywood.

See, that's the first time I heard that.

No!

And I live right off Sunset Blvd.

You never heard it called WeHo?

Nope, it's the first time.

So, you didn't do much gay research?

I know my lines. That's what I know.

When you played a drug dealer in *Go*, you didn't do drugs?

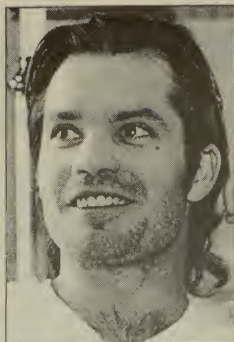
I try to keep my job as simple as possible. The bare essentials are sometimes enough. Show up. Everything else is just funny voices.

Sometimes it's not even important to understand what you're saying. I think you can, if someone gave me a script and said, okay this is a joke and I understood, and I can tell a joke, I think the joke would still work. They say, "He seems to know how to tell the joke." I didn't make it up, but I'm backing it up. Obviously, some people recommend the other style, Method acting, to understand things about another role. I get a little of the logic of it, and I guess it probably might be fun. It allows you to experience things you'd never get to do in life.

Broken Hearts was very well pieced together, all these separate lives and how they change each other. I liked that it was about a photographer.

I'm glad. I think it's a really special film. My friends that have seen it come out with the same feeling. It's really surprising, you do movies like this and you're not really sure if it'll find its audience. The most optimism I have for this movie was, "It was done right, and it'll go to Sundance Film Festival." The year before I went for *Go* and a year later I go to Sundance for *Broken Hearts*, and I can really be proud of both of these. After that, everything's icing. The reaction of people in the gay and straight community has been great.

The birthday cake scene where Dennis talks to Kevin [Andrew



Actor Tim Olyphant

Keegan] about coming out was sweet.

I think that's one of my favorite scenes. What I liked was how he wasn't 100 percent cut-and-dried good or bad. It's one of the most interesting lead roles I've read in a while. Everybody sees all these dimensions of somebody who starts off as a stereotype. Sometimes Dennis is really nasty. Well, given the right opportunity, anyone could be. I think what's fun about this movie are the little moments like when they show up at the hospital and bitch with each other. Dennis is supposed to be this central character, it's fun that he can turn around and be snotty.

So your next film is *Metal God*?

I think it's called *Rock Star* now, with Mark Wahlberg and Jennifer Aniston. It's based on the story of Judas Priest and how they got a replacement when Rob Halford quit the band. They hired a guy who was in a Judas Priest tribute band. They said, "You know all the moves, just keep going." It's as if they got another John Lennon ...

... from *Beatlemania*. Do you like metal?

I grew up listening to it in Modesto, California, so I'm as suburban white trash as the next guy. I've had my share of Scorpions and Aerosmith, so I had a good excuse to go out and buy a lot of bad albums I used to enjoy. It was really fun to make.

What else is coming up?

Next I start a film for Rose Troche, called *The Safety of Objects*. Killer Films (*Boys Don't Cry*, *Swoon*) is producing it. I star opposite Glenn Close and Dermott Mulrooney. I'm really very pleased.

No car chases?

No, just a good old suburban family drama. ▼

Abigail Child

◀ previous page

Side." The delirium focuses on Dinkinsville, a tent city that erupted during Mayor David Dinkins' era. But typically, there's nothing straightforward about this record. Child is a discreet observer, dispassionate in her recording of the daily rituals of life in this desperate dystopia. Women washing in the streets, setting up their lean-tos, haggling over merchandise — these prosaic events are recontextualized through Child's rhythmic editing and strong compositional sense, which brings a poetic power to the events it chronicles. Actress Sheila Dabney plays the numb Everywoman wandering with a kind of hopeless grandeur through the film's grim tableaux.

Again, as with Child's other work, *B/side* has a silent movie connection. It's a reversal of, and comment on, Walter Ruttmann's famed *Berlin: Symphony of a City* (1927). Where Ruttmann celebrates, Child mourns. Below the New: A Russian Chronicle (1999) continues in this realm as the filmmaker visualizes a country and a

culture decimated by history. Unseen narrators describe the present state of Russia with its "disappeared middle class," hopeless poverty and increasingly fractured dreams of a future.

"You are living in an imaginary space," says one of the narrators, and Child conjures this space from her rabbit's hat of found footage and interviews, rendered less frenetically than in some of her earlier works but with equal intensity. Historical film of Russian soldiers dancing in celebration to some victory and smiling schoolchildren at play coexist with brutal war imagery, scenes of citizens in rundown apartments, and, most eerily, an astronaut floating in the entropy of space far from culture or, it seems, meaning. "We have a collective amnesia now," says the narrator, but in this film, as in all her films, Abigail Child helps us remember. ▼

Motives for Mayhem: The Kinetic World of Abigail Child, Oct. 12-15 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and Artists Television Access. Info at www.sfcinematheque.org

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Thrills and chills

Talking with 'Urban Legends 2' director John Ottman

by Tim Nasson

Things do not always happen as you plan them," says openly gay director John Ottman, of his recently released *Urban Legends 2: Final Cut*.

While at school, Ottman always figured that he would be a director. In fact, while at University of Southern California, he majored in directing. "I met Bryan Singer at school," he says. "We worked on some films together in school and became friends." (Also openly gay, Singer went on to direct *The Usual Suspects*, *Apt Pupil*, and this summer's *X-Men*.)

"Since I had worked with and become friends with Bryan in college," says Ottman, who lives in Los Angeles, "we became comfortable enough with each other to be able to work together once we were out of school. I edited and did the scores for both *Apt Pupil* and *The Usual Suspects* for Bryan."

Though Ottman always knew, at one time or another, he would direct, he says he "became at peace editing and writing scores."

Securing *Urban Legends 2* as his directorial debut was bittersweet for Ottman. "I always had visions of directing an art film. Not a big-budget film such as *Urban Legends 2*, which came in at around \$15 million. I am very methodical about directing, and I didn't think that a bigger budget film would allow me to do exactly what I wanted to do. But I pretty much was able to. The film is more 'thriller' than 'slasher.' I think that this sequel is more sophisticated than the original. I tried to take the high road. The film has lots of humor in it, too.



Jennifer Morrison and Eva Mendes in *Urban Legends 2*

People are either going to completely embrace that, or they're going to be shocked by it."

With *Urban Legends 2*, Ottman gets to direct a pretty new cast of young kids, save for the teenage heartthrob of the last decade, Joey Lawrence, who also goes by the name Joseph Lawrence, as do so many his age who got their big breaks going by cutiepie names: Marky Mark, Ricky Schroeder, etc.

"Working with these kids was a lot of fun. They were very talented. They're all completely perfect for their roles, and they bring a unique freshness to the movie because they're all newcomers," says the 36-year-old Ottman.

One of the film's characters, Vanessa (Eve Mendes), plays a lesbian. She is more interested in girls than in rolling sound.

"Eve played the token lesbian, and at first she was supposed to get killed off a lot quicker. We expanded her role because she was

so great at it. Now she gets to live a lot longer."

Directing the sequel to the very successful *Urban Legends* proved enjoyable yet challenging for Ottman.

"*Urban Legends* was one of Columbia Pictures' five top-grossing films in 1998," says Ottman. "The first one used lots of great urban legends, and we wanted to top that. Instead of making a rehash, we made a movie that hopefully the original audience and new ones will both enjoy."

Thus was born the concept of a movie within a movie. In the beginning you wonder, is this the actual movie or is it a set? There are many such scenes in the film — one does not know whether the

scenes are part of the movie or the movie within the movie.

One of the scenes to keep your eyes open for is the one with Trevor/Travis played by the devastatingly gorgeous Matt Davis. He is in bed with lead character Amy, played by Jennifer Morrison. She had a no-nudity clause in her contract. He did not.

"I would have liked to show both of their asses," says Ottman, "but since Jennifer's agent insisted that she keep her clothes on, I had to settle for Matt naked. Trust me, I didn't complain."

Ottman goes on to say that "though Matt is 100 percent straight, he is so comfortable with his sexuality that he had fun teasing and flirting with me. He is such a great kid." Davis stars in the upcoming big-budget film *Pearl Harbor* and Joel Schumacher's *Tigerland*.

"I am very comfortable with my sexuality, too," says Ottman. "I don't flaunt it. Three weeks into the shoot, I was having lunch with Eve, who plays the lesbian, and for one reason or another the subject of my sexuality came up, and she was very surprised. She actually thought it was cool that I was gay."

Ottman says he felt very lonely on the set. "There I was, with over 70 cast and crew members, and I was the only gay person. After a while, everyone working with me started to feel bad that there was no one for me to meet."

A recent issue of *The Advocate* "used a dreadful picture of me," according to Ottman. "It was taken



Director John Ottman

during the middle of shooting *Urban Legends*, and I look like I am one step away from death's door. I don't know what happened. But they obviously got a picture of me after having worked all day and all night, having gotten no sleep and used it by mistake. I hope people who read *The Advocate* realize that I look nothing like that."

BAR asked Ottman what he did for fun, since he lives right in the heart of the gay Hollywood mecca. "To tell you the truth, I don't dance and don't really like the music they play at clubs. And when I do happen to go, which is not very often, I don't meet anyone because I exude such awkwardness. I am not the nightclub type. I hold my drink way too high. What I enjoy doing most is sneaking into a corner of a coffeehouse with a friend to play Scrabble, or go to dinner or play miniature golf."

Is he single? "I am hopelessly single," Ottman replies. "Find me a boyfriend." ▼

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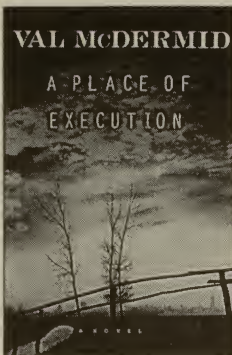
A mystery well-executed

by Deborah Peifer

There are books that I think of as oh-my-god books. You know what I'm talking about. You're reading alone, entirely involved in the story, when something happens in the narrative, something so moving, so profound, so horrifying, that all you can do is whisper to the empty room, "Oh my God."

A Place of Execution by Val McDermid (St. Martin's, \$24.95) contains several of these moments, and each is a heart-rending, gut-wrenching, mind-blowing twist in the plot, and in the fates of the extraordinary characters who people this astonishing work. McDermid is the author of the very fine Lindsay Gordon mystery series, and because of that I expected good things from this novel. *A Place of Execution* is in a category of excellence all its own, however; the best, creepiest, most compelling novel I have read this year.

A Place of Execution is a mys-



tery story, in the sense that *Oedipus Rex* is one, but the mystery is only a fraction of what is going on in this novel. The Prologue sets the tone for what is to come: "The girl was saying goodbye to her life. And it was no easy farewell." On a frigid December day in 1963, Alison Carter disappears from the hamlet of Scardale. Her mother calls the local police, and by sheer-

est chance, Detective Inspector George Bennett is still at work. He catches the case, despite the fact that in the ordinary way of things, a case of what may be murder would have been assigned to a more experienced detective. That's OK, though, because George intends to solve this mystery, no matter what it takes. In the course of his investigation, he learns too many of Scardale's secrets, and forms some opinions of the hamlet and its Squire, but where is Alison? Unable to locate the girl alive, George is determined that he will at least be able to tell her mother what happened to her daughter. When, years later, George is offered a chance to tell his story in a book about the case, he consents, but just as the manuscript is being readied for publication, he pulls the plug on the enterprise. It is up to the author, journalist Catherine Heathcote, to find out why.

McDermid displays an extraordinary talent for creating an absolutely credible sense of time and place. Attitudes toward women in 1963, for example, are woven into the narrative with subtlety and grace. In the world of 1963, the

occasional WPC (Woman Police Constable) who appears makes coffee and comforts female victims, and that's about it. The novel is superbly written, and just because it is about murder doesn't mean an

absence of the wit that makes the Lindsay Gordon series so readable: "Catherine had dressed carefully for the meeting. Her one Armani suit, low heels. She wanted all the support she could get, and she agreed with her magazine's fashion editor that there was nothing like superb Italian tailoring to make a woman feel in control." Characters, major and minor, are drawn with exquisite detail. Asked for particulars so the

search for her daughter can begin, Mrs. Hawkins responds, and "her voice cracked, as if something inside her were splintering."

Mysteries are the hardest books to review because of the danger of giving away anything, so let me just say that *A Place of Execution* is a well-written, well-crafted and compelling novel, well worth your time and treasure. Do yourself a favor, though, and don't start reading unless you have time to finish in one sitting. Yes, it's that good.

Call for submissions

Lesléa Newman, editor extraordinaire of *Pillow Talk: Lesbian Stories Between the Covers* (Volumes I and II), is at it again with *Pillow Talk III*. She's looking for "sexy, breathtaking, hot stories written by women who identify as lesbian or bisexual. All serious, funny, tender, angry, lusty stories about sexual encounters (or near-encounters) between women will be considered." For more submission information, go to www.lesleanewman.com.

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Book Report

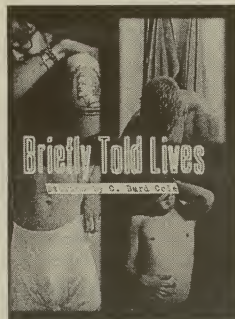
Graphic excess

by Jim Piechota

Briefly Told Lives by C. Bard Cole; St. Martin's Press, \$22.95

With obvious nods to gay literary icons Dennis Cooper and John Rechy, alternative 'zine author C. Bard Cole's aggressive, arresting first collection of stories introduces an assortment of hapless characters, all struggling yet surviving with chemically-dependent, sexually charged, violent lives.

Far from the safety and pseudo-sanity of established gay ghettos, these tales are set mostly in and around a New York City netherworld. In the story "Used To Dream," drugs, sex, hustlers, and violence rule, and those looking for love often end up with bruises and black eyes instead. Cole introduces many unconventional characters in his narrative: go-go dancers with sympathetic hearts struggle to find life and happiness, a gun-smuggling Irish immigrant with noble intentions



fights for freedom, and a mother's cool demeanor triumphantly spells acceptance for her gay son's new lover.

Other stories, like "Mitch Huber," are mired in graphic excess and may turn stomachs. A boy murders his abusive parents, then attempts to dismember and dispose of their bodies, all while trying to outsmart his dangerously hostile boyfriend. Conversely, the spirited paraplegic in "James

Loughlin Childes" rescues the book from its seemingly hopeless nature in a tale that transcends the biased boundaries of disability and turns despair into true gay love. Cole's prose throughout is appropriately gritty and scabrous, studied with pitch-perfect, streetwise dialogue with nary a hint of closure or emotional revelation at each tale's end. This mechanism may prove exasperating for those who like happy endings, though "happy" is not a good word to describe this volume. Prefacing each story are the author's own computerized line drawings, and Cole's artwork is as jagged and unflinchingly real as the stories themselves.

Readers looking for the quintessential uplifting gay story collection won't find it here, as most of the author's vignettes are rife with undercurrents of self-deprecation, desperation, and ignominy. Clearly not for the faint-hearted, this book packs a hard punch, delivered by the "dangerous and masculine and uncontrolled" men who dwell in Cole's vigorous imagination. ▼

Live Nude Girls

◀ page 34

To which a dancer replied, "We're supposed to show our pussies, just not talk about them!"

The filmmakers dramatize the tough choices faced by the dancers, who had to decide which issues were worth striking and possibly losing their jobs over. A moving moment comes when their SEIU union representative, Stephanie Batey, explains how she's tried to explain this very singular type of labor activism to her middle-aged women friends without too much success.

Personal is political

It was during one of the reverse therapy sessions that Query dropped a hairpin, telling her co-workers that she hoped her ongoing struggle to come out to Mom about stripper activism would provide the film with an emotional subplot. As Query notes, "Suddenly my [once sweet]

protagonist wasn't as naively likable."

As the negotiations dragged on through the winter of 1997, Query got an invitation to present a panel on organizing sex workers at an international conference on prostitution. The rub was that her mother (still clueless to her daughter's real life) would be speaking at the same conference. So Query and her dancer buddy Decadence secured Joyce Wallace's permission to film her at a motel in Santa Monica.

Warning to her subject, Query told her mother, "I was a professional dominatrix for a while."

"Oh, God!" Wallace visibly recoiled. The filmmakers nimbly balance years of daughter/mother emotional baggage with sessions at the conference that show their equally tough-minded if notably different professional styles. While Wallace soberly laid out the statistics illustrating the social cost of street prostitution — "We were shocked to find that those women who performed more fellatio than

vagina sex were more likely to be infected" — Query used her standup to poke wicked fun at the wages of sin: "After being paid to give golden showers, every time I pee, I feel gyped."

Ultimately, *Live Nude Girls UNITE!* overcomes its occasional technical crudeness to present a scintillating dissection of the jagged boundary of the social fabric where worker rights make conflicting claims to those of sexual freedom and self-expression. Like Karyn Kusama's two-fisted feminism in *Girlfight*, Query and Funari's nuanced dialectic on the sexual workplace makes you take a fresh and sometimes troubling look at who these women are and who they want to be. Query and Funari hope the film's run at the Roxie and elsewhere will augment its influence as an organizing tool in sex clubs across the country. ▼

Live Nude Girls UNITE! plays the Roxie Cinema through October 19.

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◀ Arts cover

were the air of glamour at this luncheon banquet.

Trading riffs

As the O'Brien toiled past San Francisco's piers and over by Alcatraz Island to watch the Parade of Ships cruise through the Golden Gate, we traded riffs with her captain, Captain Patrick Moloney, over the ship's sound system. "Little Brown Jug" and a look up the ramp of the Cape Horn, a civilian vessel Moloney describes as "a giant floating parking garage." "American Patrol" and a description of the Third Fleet flagship USS Coronado's artillery. "I've Got the World on a String," and an F-14 fighter jet takes off with sound-cracking speed from the

aircraft carrier USS Constellation. Flotilla seems too delicate a word for these gray steel behemoths, described in multiples of football fields, carrying the equivalent of small cities, and the means for their destruction, within their hulls. Watching them makes you realize how small our Bay is.

The band takes a break, and teeth chattering, I make a dash for the gift shop, where Moloney has promised sweatshirts are for sale. Down an open, steel stair-ladder into the third cargo hold, you find all the history and apparatus collected by the National Liberty Ship Memorial, Inc., the nonprofit organization that preserves the O'Brien. The walls are lined with black-and-white photos of the crew that piloted the ship on supply runs between England and the US, and eventually, on its 11 runs between England and Omaha

Beach during D-Day. Named for the first captain to win a naval battle during the American Revolutionary War, the O'Brien is the last of 2,751 Liberty Ships, swiftly built cargo ships FDR described as "dreadful looking objects" that ran the German U-boat blockades to supply Allied troops in the European and Asian theaters. Her engine uses the same steam-driven technology of the Titanic, and in fact, that film's engine-room scenes were shot on this ship.

In the enormous cargo hold, gifts are spread out on long tables like uniforms at a recruitment center. In fact, a recruitment center for volunteers stands at one end of the hold. The entire crew, from captain to board president to engineer to cook to ship restoration worker to pamphlet passer, is staffed by volunteers, many of them retired WWII vets. This is an astonishing venture, considering that the ship continues to operate, and made the 20,000-mile round trip to France for the 50th anniversary of D-Day in 1994. Even the swing bands donate their time to the fundraisers.

After lunch, our glamour is stretched microchip thin by the wind. Count Basie's band may have played on the open prairie at the end of *Blazing Saddles*, but to

my knowledge, he never appeared on a ship's deck, and for good reason. Gail Wilson seems to be granted some immunity by her first name, her magenta hair and black ostrich feathers billowing fashionably. Conductor/trumpeter Bradley Connlain, dressed in black with black sunglasses like a Mafioso jazzman, quips beneath his crew cut that not a hair is out of place. Several unnamed trumpets repress flipping him a line of birds in the passengers' presence. Trumpeter Tim Caldwell tells me a piece of Caesar salad flew off his plate and stuck to a woman's cheek. Several trombones have returned to their seats with black earflap hats and scarves à la Elmer Fudd, while Kasey Brown has opted for black earmuffs. I've pulled my red bowtie out above the collar of my new navy blue sweatshirt, but the formal effect is

gone. Music is whipped away from the grasp of music stand clips throughout the band, and passengers dive on the flying sheets like live grenades.

No matter. The crew and the crowd believe the SS Jeremiah O'Brien is precious, not because she's a pristine specimen preserved under glass, but because she's operational, alive on the water as she was built to be. This isn't a crowd impressed or dissuaded by appearances, and they jitterbug to the swing music as long as it comes. One white-haired passenger I talked to, a Naval vet who'd served on another Liberty Ship out of Maine and came on this cruise to reminisce, told me that dancing on a ship's deck wasn't as out of place as I'd believed.

"We had some great parties when we put into port." ▼



Conductor Bradley Connlain leads City Swing on the deck of the SS Jeremiah O'Brien.

Ralph Lemon

◀ Arts cover

of Lemon's collaborative projects thus far. Commenting on the entire series, Lemon ruminates, "I think that the three parts are subtexts to the one work, my discourse with myself, re-evaluating all that I have known as a dance artist, performer, choreographer. It's an attempt to place myself in an environment that complicates my history. It's a self-challenge, and the way I've been physicalizing that challenge is by working with artists from diverse cultures and body politics."

Different trains

In the *Geography Trilogy*, Lemon works with dancers and musicians from different cultures and approaches to their art. The first work in the trilogy, *Africa/Race*, included dancers and musicians from West Africa (Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire). With an all-male cast, *Africa/Race* explored themes of race and spirituality.

Tree, by way of contrast, features dancers of both genders from the US, Africa and Asia. Perceptions of cultural gender roles and sexuality are primary foci of *Tree*. Working with dancers from India, China, Taiwan, Japan, Côte d'Ivoire and the United States, Lemon worked through cultural and linguistic differences. Com-

municating with dancers through translators, Lemon explains this process: "I would present an idea that immediately got fragmented into 12 different variations. Basically the language challenges broke down concepts or ideas. What I'm left with are very unpredictable gems."

Like much of contemporary dance, *Tree* escapes easy description or classification. Lemon describes it as "a series of fractured questions, experienced both by men and women and by racial beings. I think the work is a display of a conversation that we [the dancers in the show] are all trying to have."

At the same time, *Tree* and other short-term projects are necessarily very different from the kind of company-based work that Lemon is used to exploring. In a traditional company-produced work, there is always time to refine and rework. With a shorter performance life, different priorities emerge. Lemon explains, "There's a real drive to make this happen because its time frame is so limited. It has a two- or two-and-a-half-year life. I can't tinker with it too much as a creator." ▼

Tree shows at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Oct. 12-14 at 8 p.m., Oct. 15 at 2 p.m. Tickets (\$28-\$35), call 978-ARTS.



Ralph Lemon in Part II of the *Geography Trilogy*, *Tree*.

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Remember the Titans

by Victoria A. Brownworth

What a week for TV! Revolution in Yugoslavia, destruction in the Middle East, and debates, debates, debates. The long-awaited dissolution of the *Big Brother* house certainly seemed anti-climactic in the face of so much real-life drama.

TV is the electronic bridge that spans the global village — a fact never more provocatively stated than in a week like this, where bullets and ballots flew with equal intensity.

Our little glowing boxes allowed us to witness the joy in Belgrade as the will of the people triumphed over the will of a dictator. They also gave us the bloody play-by-play in Israel as Palestinians and Israelis once again battled in the name of God over the most contested piece of real estate on the planet.

These events placed the presidential and vice-presidential debates in a much broader context

than they otherwise might have been viewed. As people risk their lives and die for the possibility of freedom and democracy, it makes the whiny little bitchfest that was the first presidential debate look tawdry — far from befitting the world's one remaining superpower.

As the tough-as-nails Secretary of State Madeline Albright literally ran after Yassar Arafat to corral him back to peace negotiations in Paris, ordering guards to close the gates so his car could not leave and leaping into the car with him, wooing him back to the talks, George Bush was looking utterly addled and Al Gore slightly hysterical at the podium in Boston. It sort of begs the question on leadership ability.

The spotlight on the world stage, TV lets us see Parliament stormed in Belgrade in real time and makes us privy to the news of Albright's diplomatic coups as they happen. And we get to watch our would-be leaders answer questions, something the Yugoslavs never experienced before the fall of Milosevic. An adjunct to international politics, TV paints the canvas of real politik big and broad and sometimes scary.

Sometimes we see things we do not want to see, such as the Palestinian father and his young son cowering behind a small stone wall in Jerusalem on Rosh Hashanah, the boy shot to death by Israeli crossfire. Or Palestinians stoning worshippers at the Western Wall in Jerusalem from the Temple Mount. Or Gore and Bush looking like cartoon characters rather than candidates for the world's most prestigious and most important political office.

Wrong tops

When Sen. Joe Lieberman and former Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney debated in Kentucky last week, it was difficult not to think the wrong guys were heading the tickets. Smart, sharp, acerbic but not bitchy, Lieberman and Cheney appeared to answer real questions with real answers. (Of course, CNN's Bernard Shaw asked real questions and didn't allow the candidates to bitch-slap him like PBS's Jim Lehrer with Gore and Bush. Can you say obsequious?) We liked Shaw, an African-Amer-

ican, asking the candidates to "be black for this question" on racial profiling. We were amazed that Shaw asked how the candidates would address the gender gap in pay between men and women (we thought everyone had forgotten women only make 72 cents on the dollar). And we were quite pleased at how encompassing (the harder to squirm out of) his questions on queer rights were. Of course, we really want to know, given Cheney's non-response on this issue and his refusal to mention his dyke daughter, how the Log Cabinettes are going

to support the Bush-Cheney ticket in November. I guess that promised tax cut for the rich white guys will just woo 'em along. The veep debate was solid, barely boring and quite well-moderated. (Scary as we find him, we also have to give Cheney credit for having the guts to wear something other than the red-white-and-blue political wardrobe traditional to such venues.) The questions asked in the VP debate and the answers given went far toward explicating the differences between the parties — real, substantive differences, most especially on the environment, women, queers, blacks and money — despite what some pundits and Naderites might claim.

Speaking tangentially of Nader, his debate on last week's *Meet the Press* with Pat Buchanan (who is now so far right he's going to be, like Stalin, coming around to the left soon) should have gone a long way toward losing him votes. It's not so much we mind his meanness and his abrasiveness, though we do. We mind his one-

note-samba. The needle is stuck so far into the consumerist groove, he can't talk about anything else. His dismissive tone when asked substantive questions on issues of great import to the queer and minority communities really makes us want to slap him hard.

The Gore-Bush debates have been alarming, both for their lack of comprehensibility and for their tone. Gore's shrillness is going to force us to take a big dose of Viagra to get it up for him in November. But then, a sidelong glance at Bush is enough to

renew ardor for Gore. And Cheney just reinforces how incredibly stupid Bush is (much the same way Lieberman reinforces the automaton Gore is). When we think of the brilliant Albright, hand-picked by the very smart Bill Clinton to do the second-hardest job in the country, we can only shudder at the image of the dim-witted Bush and the war-mongering Cheney choosing their negotiator manqué. Talk about scary movie! Can you say *Failsafe*?

Flamer for prez

The most bizarre response to the debates, however, came from the Republican National Committee, which bitched the day after Boston that Gore was wearing rouge and pancake to try to look like Reagan. Uh, can you say subliminal? The controversy prompted conservative radio host Chuck Booms to suggest on *Politically Incorrect* that "Bush could have won the whole debate by just leaning over and asking Gore, 'Are you gay?'"

Of course, this prompted Bill

Maher to respond that "Gore sounds like a gay guy who's not out of the closet yet," and then said Gore speaks in such a measured way to keeping from flaming out nellie all the time. A hilarious image, but one the Gore camp (no pun intended) probably doesn't want to promote.

Meanwhile, the much-promoted season premiere of the Emmy-laden *West Wing* was awesome, yet served to reinforce just how tedious the current presidential campaign is. For those of you who have yet to tune into this ultra-smart political drama, set the VCR Wednesdays for NBC. It's even more superb this season than last and always queer-friendly.

We should note *Big Brother* finally wrapped. Eddie — one-legged, hunky cancer-surviving wheelchair basketball star and working-class hero who got the award for saying "fuck" more than anyone in the history of TV — won the \$500,000 first prize, with Back Street Boy-lite Josh coming in second and Asian-American wunderkind Curtis in third. An interesting cultural experiment that we don't want to see again for a long, long time. We wonder how much of the prize money will be needed for therapy.

Speaking of therapy, didn't we say recently that black rappers need to be taken to task for their homophobia as well as white rappers? Basketball legend Alan Iverson of the Philadelphia Sixers apologized to queers and women for his offensive Eminem-style lyrics in his CD released this week. He was immediately challenged by black leaders (GLAAD was, as ever, silent). But Sixers owner Pat Croce has no intention of giving Iverson the John Rucker treatment. Too vital a player to be chastised for abominable behavior.

page 48 ►

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Out on video

Rupert Everett video fest

by Will Shank

Gay actor Rupert Everett leaves behind his perennial role as the leading lady's tasteful best friend and plays it straight in two recent video releases. It is a pleasure to watch him featured as a protagonist, without being tied to the coattails of a Madonna or a Julia Roberts.

Inspector Gadget

Written by Kerry Ehrin and Zak Penn, directed by David Kellogg (Disney)

Ignored by the big-screen audience, *Inspector Gadget* on video provides a delightful bit of cartoonish fluff. I happen to be of the school that would pay to see Matthew Broderick read a telephone book, but the all-purpose actor is exceptionally endearing as the Capra-esque hero, John Brown, the good cop in all-American Riverton, which is played by Pittsburgh ("I just want to help people.") He is well-matched by Joely Fisher as Brenda, aka Dr. Bradford, the wide-eyed brainiac daughter of the professor (Rene Auberjonois) whose scientific discovery is the McGuffin of the good-guys/bad-guys plot.

Rupert Everett gets to chew up the scenery (and do a passable American accent) as the churlish

villain, a sort of Cruella de Ville in male drag. (Why do the villains always have pet cats?) In-joke: his Captain Hook appendage inspires him to take on an appellation, Claw — "You know, one word, like Madonna."

The gadgets take over the human actors occasionally, and Broderick's talking car is a bit much, but it's all done in the name of good clean fun. Extra treats: Cheri Oteri and Dabney Coleman play local officials with appropriately wacky overstatement.

An Ideal Husband

Written and directed by Oliver Parker (Miramax)

This Oscar Wilde drawing room comedy was filmed before, with Paulette Goddard and Michael Wilding in 1948, but the 1999 version brings high style to the *fin de siècle* proceedings with superb production values. (In a ballroom scene, one expects the von Trapp children to appear on the staircase above the well-heeled party guests, singing, "So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, good-night!") A dream cast steps into the tightly laced shoes of Wilde's Victorians, among them Julianne Moore, Minnie Driver, Jeremy Northam, and Rupert Everett in the title role.

As the beautiful, blackmailing villainess from Vienna, Moore is a



Rupert Everett in *An Ideal Husband*

smiling, conniving serpent. She is superb. But the tone of the piece is set by her evil plottings, and the humor is swallowed up by the swirl of backstabbing politics which drives the plot forward. This version of Wilde is more *Dangerous Liaisons* than *Much Ado About Nothing*, and its dark atmosphere makes a suddenly happy ending ring somehow false. But Everett meets the challenge of playing the aloof, bored heterosexual bachelor until he finally succumbs to the charms of Ms. Right. ▼

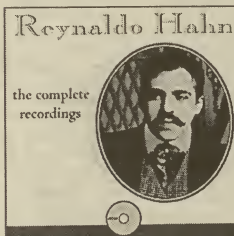
DISCS

Vocal treasures

New and historic recordings released on CD

by Jason Serinus

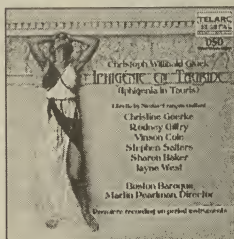
Despite a noticeable slowdown in releases from major labels, the last few months have seen some glorious new and historic vocal recordings. The most exciting, to my mind, is the three-for-the-price-of-two Reynaldo Hahn: *The Complete Recordings* (Romophone), containing all known recordings sung and/or accompanied by French composer and baritone Reynaldo Hahn (1875-1947). The precocious Hahn, who published his famous song "Si mes vers avaient des ailes" ("If my songs had wings") when he was 14, began setting the poetry of Paul Verlaine, who had been imprisoned for attacking his young lover Rimbaud, three years later. After an 1894 introduction to the not-yet-famous Marcel Proust, the two became lovers for two years, and were subsequently lifelong friends.



Hahn's compositions have frequently been dismissed as charming salon trifles. What these recordings affirm, however, is that when entrusted to the right hands, his works have the power to touch the heart in the most subtle and profound ways. Here, in his own songs, Hahn accompanies three of his favorite singers: the American Endreze, who produces the most tender of utterances; Ninon Vallin, whose incomparably regal voice — the kind that inspires worship — lends a very different dimension to Hahn's songs; and Guy Ferrant, Hahn's lover of at least a dozen years, whose simplicity of delivery perfectly matches Hahn's own. Compare Endreze and Vallin in Hahn's incomparably intimate "L'heure Exquise," and then play versions by the superb Susan Graham (Sony) and the exquisite

Maggie Teyte (EMI), and the depth of Hahn's soul will be revealed to you.

Worship of a different sort is inspired by the lead singers in *Iphigenie en Tauride* (Telarc), the final "reform" opera of Christoph Willibald Gluck (1714-1787). SFO's production of Gluck's *Orfeo et Eurydice* a few years back produced noticeable yawns from many, but this marvelous, totally engrossing performance by Martin Pearlman and Boston Baroque, the premiere recording on period instruments, commands attention from start to finish.



Pearlman's striking Iphigenie, soprano Christine Goerke, unleashes a voice filled with color, nobility and grandeur. Hers is an instrument in its prime, beautiful throughout the range (far more so than Callas), possessed of more authority than Diana Montague's on Gardiner's rival recording, and absolutely responsive to the wide range of emotions Iphigenie must express. Equally remarkable is baritone Rodney Gilfry, who portrays Iphigenie's brother Oreste. The handsome, well-muscled Gilfry scored big last year playing the brutal, T-shirted rapist Stanley in SFO's production of Andre Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Those expecting another gruff, monotone portrayal will here discover a beautifully-voiced artist of profound sensitivity, deeply moving in his expression of Oreste's loyalty, suffering and pain.

After listening to such poised and dignified music, the orchestral introduction to the opening track on soprano Nelly Miricioiu's *Rossini Gala* (Opera Rara) comes as something of a shock. This may be Rossini's serious stuff, but it's also downright hilarious in its pretense to be about something



important. The bolt of lightning at 4:48 into the Act II Finale from *Mose in Egitto* must be heard to be believed. As for the finale from *Vallace*, don't read the liner notes; just put it on and be prepared to scream. The Romanian-born, British-based Miricioiu comes across as a slightly over-the-hill diva of the first order. Miricioiu treats Rossini the way the great Magda Olivero treated verismo. With occasional traces of Callas and Caballe in her voice, Miricioiu socks it to us with an earnestness that commands respect. True, her "Riedi al soglio" from *Zelmira* cannot touch Cecilia Bartoli's fabulous rendition, and her coloratura is occasionally labored, but the woman is so real that every opera queen who purchases this disc will find himself making space for Miricioiu's image on his altar.

Swede dreams

More substantial Italian fare can be heard on *Jussi Bjoerling, Rarities* (VAIA). Tenor Bjoerling (1911-1960), sometimes called the "Swedish Caruso," made his first commercial recordings while in his early 20s. The heart-touching, Italianate yearning and sincerity of Bjoerling's delivery, and the glory of his beautiful lyric tenor, quickly catapulted him to the Met and international stardom.

Bjoerling's voice shone most in its full head tones, the highest



notes ringing out as if to say, "Listen to me: this is who I am; this is what I'm about." The tenor often seemed to anticipate these notes by a fraction of a second, leaping to them as though he couldn't wait to sing out all he had in him. Although his voice darkened some as he entered his 40s, it retained its glistening lyric beauty until the very end; even alcoholism could not dim its luster.

The VAIA disc offers 21 live, "off the air" performances from 1937-1953; four, from the prime year of 1938, receive their premiere issue. The sound is occasionally distorted, but the live singing is often more inspired than in the studio. Although the glory of Bjoerling's top is not consistently captured as completely as in his commercial recordings, the performances are too glorious to be ignored. The 1943 "Nessun dorma" from Puccini's *Turandot*, and the 1938 "Salut! Demeure chaste et pure" (sung in Swedish) from Gounod's *Faust*, both of which precede their commercial recordings by a year, present special opportunities to hear the extra vibrancy and urgency that Bjoerling could bring to opera when the spirit moved him. Anyone who thinks Luciano Pavarotti's 1,001 renditions of "Nessun dorma" are the end all and be all must hear these two different Bjoerling renditions. Before the Three Tenors, there was Bjoerling.

Soprano Debra Voigt is about to present an October 15 after-noon recital in UC Berkeley's



Zellerbach Auditorium, and join the SF Gay Men's Chorus for an October 16 Palace of Fine Arts *Giving Back!* tribute which benefits women and their support organizations. On *Wagner Love Duets* (EMI), Voigt joins tenor Plácido Domingo in Act III-Scene 3 of *Siegfried* and the first recording of Wagner's "concert version" of the love duet from *Tristan und Isolde*. Voigt has been performing major Wagnerian roles for a number of years, but her gorgeous voice still sounds absolutely fresh and even, riding above the orchestra with ease. Alas, she cannot match Domingo's rapture. Although in his late 50s, his voice thicker and with less ring than in its prime, Domingo remains a wonder. Not only is his singing still secure, but his ardor is palpable, some phrases breathed out with an intimacy far more reminiscent of the late Wagnerian soprano Lotte Lehmann than a heldentenor. Not since Bjoerling have we experienced such generosity of tenor utterance. ▼

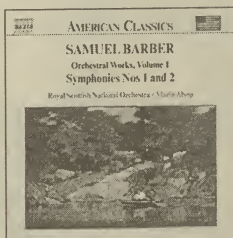
Attention-getters

by Jason Serinus

Samuel Barber — *Orchestral Works, Vol. 1*, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Marin Alsop (Naxos)

Samuel Barber (1910-1981), life partner of Gian Carlo Menotti (composer of that quintessential, family-approved Christmas opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*), wrote only two symphonies. The First was penned when he was 26; the Second was composed shortly after his 1943 conscription into the US Air Force.

As the symphonies and two shorter orchestral works on this CD demonstrate, Barber's writing basically remained within a romantic, tonal vein. The School for Scandal Overture, Op. 5, evoking

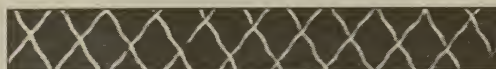


Sheridan's comedy of the same name, begins dramatically, but quickly transitions into most enjoyable music that variously teases, plays and frolics. The one-movement Symphony No. 1, featuring a final Andante tranquillo section whose plaintive beginning reminds one of Barber's famed Adagio for Strings, attracted the attention of Arturo Toscanini, who commissioned Barber to

write the justly famous First Essay for Orchestra, Op. 12 for the NBC Symphony Orchestra. This wonderful eight-minute piece, grave and moving in the beginning, is filled with drama and memorable invention. And while Barber was never satisfied with his dark, war-influenced Symphony No. 2, Op. 19, eventually destroying almost all copies — powerful as it is, Shostakovich certainly "did" war better — its beautiful, yearning Andante was saved, revised and resurrected separately as *Night Flight*.

Conductor Marin Alsop's forces do a wonderful job with these works. Though the sonics fail to convey the ultimate wallop that she and Barber pack into parts of this music, they are certainly clear and impressive. A great start to the Naxos Barber orchestral series. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon



Pearl Ubungen Dancers Yayoi Kambara and Wailana Simock

Tagulaylay

You never know what you'll come across in The Presidio these days. And that's a good thing for those of us who love exploring. Surprise is the spice of adventure, and it can come in the form of exquisite dancers appearing in a little oasis of the park called El Polin Spring, a hop and a skip from Tennessee Hollow.

Should you happen to show up in that location any day this weekend (October 13-15), at either 1 p.m. or 4 p.m., you'll encounter not a puckish, Shakespearean troupe of light-hearted faeries prancing about among the eucalyptus, but something rather more somber — a requiem dance, dead earnest in conception and presentation.

Tagulaylay/The Presidio is the title of the dance, and it will be performed — free — by the **Pearl Ubungen Dancers and Musicians** to bring attention to one of the low points of American history. The Presidio makes for a perfect stage for the dancers to put across their message, since the former military post was one of the staging areas for troops sent into America's "first Vietnam," the Philippine American War, which began in February 1899.

"Tagulaylay" means requiem in Tagalog, the national language of the Philippines, which is why Pearl Ubungen chose it as the title for this work, the company's eighth major site-specific work. Her choice of themes and locations is consistent with her decade-long commitment to exploring contemporary cultural and social issues through dance. A fourth-generation Filipina American, born and raised in San Francisco, Ubungen has made a body of work pertaining to the Filipino diaspora.

Joining in this open-air production will be Filipino singer-songwriter **Joey Ayala**, best known for his use of indigenous instruments and idioms, and for his environment-friendly lyrics. ▼

The world premiere of Tagulaylay/The Presidio, with Pearl Ubungen Dancers & Musicians with Joey Ayala, takes place Oct. 13-15 at 1pm & 4pm, El Polin Spring, Tennessee Hollow, SF Presidio. Free. Presented in honor and celebration of Filipino History Month by La Peña Cultural Center and PUD&M in partnership with Filipinos for Affirmative Action. Info: 221-7573.



Fudgie Frottage, SF Drag King 2000 Electro, and Vinnie "Vlad" Testosteroni bury their hatchets in DragStrip's "Hallowiener" at Cafe Cocomo. See Friday.

Fri

Cafe Cocomo

DragStrip presents "Hallowiener," a costume ball for Drag Kings and friends (High Femmes, Drag Queens, Transys, etc.), complete with a Stormy Leather Fashion show, featuring their new men's line, drag makeovers by Arty Fishal, SF Drag King '99, and a costume/packing contest complete with prizes. Leigh Crow and Laurie "The Shack" Bushman host ghoulish and foolish performances by SF Drag King 2000, Electro, Fudgie Frottage, Jordan LaMoore, Vinnie "Vlad" Testosteroni, Trashina Cann and Rusty Steele. \$15 (\$20 for dinner & show, including preferred seating). \$10 b4 10pm in drag (including high femme & tranny). Partial proceeds to benefit PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support). 282-5378; www.madkats.com

The Lab

Work-in-progress: "Califas 2000," a Spanglish performance opera by artist/writer Guillermo Gómez-Peña and experimental composer Guillermo Gallardo. A highly transgressive work reaching into and beyond traditional operatic conventions to fuse performance art, new music, rap, and techno-Chicano aesthetics. In this presentation of "Part One: Jurassic Aztlan," it is the year 2500 and the world is populated by a race of multicultural cyborgs engineered from a blend of the most desirable genetic traits of all ethnic groups. Borrowing from Balinese dance theater staging, "Califas 2000" is designed for the audience to sit on the floor while the performance takes place around

them. \$7-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Thru Oct. 15. 2948 16th St. (at Capp). 864-8855.

Sat

Unitarian Universalist Center

All Our Families Coalition presents the 6th Annual Family Day 2000 for LGBT families and friends, benefiting COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere), Nia Collective (African American Gays & Lesbians), and Our Family, the LGBT family group. Featuring arts & crafts, carnival games, jump tent and ball pit; raffles; computer games, playground olympics, and entertainment by Thoth, the Purple Moon Dance Project, Magic Jeanie, Flapjack Family Band and Wessel's Water Puppets. \$10 family pass (as many "family" as you like); \$5 adult; kids free (NOTAFLÖF). 11am-4pm. Geary & Franklin. 681-1960.

Metropolitan Community Church

Men of All Colors Together (MACT) hold their 20th Anniversary Party, a chance to mingle with new and old friends, share memories, photographs and memorabilia, and partake of food and drink. 7-10pm. 150 Eureka St. (btwn 18th & 19th sts.). Info: 675-0201; http://go.to/mactsfba

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Tomales Point wildlife tour in Pt. Reyes Nat'l. Seashore. Look for Tule Elk, deer, and fox in a walk from Upper Pierce Ranch to Tomales Point, where there are panoramic views of the

seashore. It's a leisurely 9-mile hike with a 900-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:30am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Herbst Theatre

Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™ presents the 2nd annual "Funny Girlz," a smorgas-

bord of women's humor. Featuring comedian Luenell (Oakland's Bad Girl of Comedy), juggler/monologist Sara Felder, spoken-word performer Beth Lisk, deadpan comedian Janis Lipton, Patsy Cline impersonator Arturo Galster, and comedic host Lisa Geduldig. \$20 & \$25 reserved. 8pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister). Tix: 392-4400 and BASS. Info: www.igc.org/koshercomedy. Partial proceeds will benefit Asian Women's Shelter.

Jon Sims Center

The Jon Sims Center for the Arts, in association with the Artist Alliance Against AIDS's Alchemy Workshop for Emerging Playwrights, presents Greg Nott's dark comedy, *Too Many Balls in the Air*, directed by Alan S. Quismorio, featuring Mark Rachel, Stan Stone, Cherisma Ferel and Claudia Carasso. A dark comedy about one little queer trying to keep it together even as his dying ex-lover screams about horses in bed, his mom needles him about an old poem, and a Hindu saint spills the most irritating secrets in the universe. Thank God for the best friend who's willing to look at trash in a gutter and see the wildflowers of Mendocino instead. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLÖF). 8pm. Also on Oct. 15 (7pm), 21 (8pm), & 22 (7pm). 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & South Van Ness). 554-0402.

ODC Theater

Dancers' Group, ODC Theater and Epiphany Productions present *Paralelo 32* (a dance company based in Mexicali, Mexico) in Kim Epifano's *Desos Desnudos (Naked Wish)*, an evening-length work with five female dancers, music from Tibet, Tuva and Switzerland, and video recorded in Mexico's Guadalupe Canyon. \$15. 8pm. Also on Monday, Oct. 16. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Info: 863-9834; www.odcdance.org

Studio Theatre, SFSU

The Theatre Arts Department at SF State University presents Molière's classic comedy *The Miser*, directed by Carlos Barón, featuring an original live musical score by Ben Frazell. A comic story of several overlapping and misunderstood love affairs. Says

Barón: "The Miser is an appropriate play for this dot-com era of instant cyber-fortune. It shows the dehumanizing and alienating absurdity of pursuing money for its own sake, and reveals that real treasure resides in more important relationships." The production will recreate a faithful semblance of the theatre of Molière's period, with elaborate wigs and thick, pasty makeup, stock characters, outrageous scenarios and other exaggerated elements. \$10 (\$8 students/seniors). 8pm. Through Oct. 22. Creative Arts Bldg., SFSU, 1600 Holloway. Info: 338-2467; www.sfsu.edu/~allarts

Tse Chen Ling Center for Tibetan Buddhist Studies

"Relying on a Spiritual Teacher," a special program with Thubten Pende, who has studied and practiced Tibetan Buddhism for more than 20 years. Using classic Indian texts, Thubten Pende will instruct on how to discern the qualities of the teacher — the spiritual guide, guru or lama who Tibetan Buddhists believe is an essential component of the spiritual path. 10:30am-12 noon. 4 Joost Ave. (at Glen Park BART). Info: 333-3261.

Galleria Design Center

"Hoedown 2000," a gala country-western dance benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund and The Sundance Association. Entertainment by The Barbary Coast Cloggers, Doug Stevens, Charlie Pacheco, Tom McGovern, The River City Boyz, Kenny Lee, Ed Morgan, and introducing the men of the 2001 SoMa Bare Chest Calendar. Two Stepping and Line Dancing with DJ Ten Gallon Hal. \$25 adv.; \$30 door. 8pm-1am. 21+ w/ID. 101 Henry Adams St. Tix at: Does Your Mother Know (4079 18th St. at Castro) & Sundance Saloon (Sun. 6-11pm at 174 King St.). Info: 699-5764; sundance.freehosting.net

Sun

Eagle Tavern

"Eagle Beverage Benefit,"



Sara Felder and other funny folks do Kosher Comedy at Herbst Theatre. See Saturday.

sponsored by the Golden Gate Men's Chorus. They'll be raffling off a six-night stay in Palm Springs, as well as their premiere CD *Loving Again*, great dinner dates, and other prizes. All welcome to join the fun. Good food served. \$8. 3pm. 14th & Harrison.

4th Annual Ride for Life

Join some 200 motorcyclists from all over the Bay Area to ride under the Shanti flag from San Francisco to the Russian River to raise funds to help people living with HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses including breast cancer and Alzheimer's disease. Honorary starter: Hank Plante of KPIX Channel 5. Starting place: Kilowatt, 3160 16th St. (at Valencia). Final destination: Northwood Restaurant, Monte Rio, Russian River. Minimum \$25 donation per person (includes a hearty buffet lunch). Info: 674-4720; www.shanti-rides.org

UMC Bethany Church

Performance artist S.K. Thoth presents "The Herma: the Life and Land of Nular-in, Act II" a "solopero" accompanied by solo violin and complex percussive rhythms. It draws from the mythological world of the Festad about which Thoth has been writing since childhood. A benefit for the San Francisco Food Bank. \$10-\$25 & up (\$7 students/seniors; \$5 children). Non-perishable food donations invited, preferably without genetically engineered ingredients. 7pm. 1268 Sanchez St. (at Clipper). Info: (888) 646-8745; www.sk-thoth.com

Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, Oakland

Author Elana Dykewoman hosts a slide show and reading, and Gale Kissin performs Yiddish music on guitar, to benefit the progressive Journal of Jewish Life *Bridges: A Journal for Jewish Feminists and Our Friends*, offering a mix of Judaism, politics, ethnicities, sexualities, artistic vision and really good writing. Founded in 1990 by Adrienne Rich, Elly Bulkin and a collective of writer/activists, *Bridges* aims to create a bridge across generations and cultures, between Jews and non-Jews, writers, artists and the wider community. It seeks to recover "lost voices," especially by women writing in Yiddish, Ladino and other languages of the Jewish Diaspora. This particular fundraiser is a women-only event. No admission fee (donations encouraged). 2-4pm (directly following the women's brunch). 1650 Mountain Blvd. (at Thornhill), Oakland. (510) 339-1832.

Headlands Center for the Arts

Open house: installations, painting, performances, readings, sculpture and photography, highlighting the work of ten artists-in-residence, 16 affiliate artists, and three Graduate Studio Award winners. Located in a cluster of artist-renovated military buildings in the Marin Headlands, 15 minutes north of San Francisco. Free. Fort Barry Buildings 944, 945 and 960. Noon-5pm. Info: 331-2787; www.headlands.org

Mon 16

Piaf's

QComedy.com presents Gay Comedy Showcase, hosted by Darrick Richardson, with Tessie Chua, Heather Gold, David Guiney, Joseph Rocha, Bridget Schwartz and others.



Amelia Davis' *The First Look* portrays breast cancer survivors at Hang Gallery. See Thurs.

\$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). 541-5610.

Green Room

The Left Coast Chamber ensemble opens its 2000-2001 season with the West Coast premieres of works by Zhou Long ("Spirit of Chimes for Violin, Cello and Piano") and Chen Yi ("Sound of the Five for Cello and String Quartet"), plus works by Haydn and Brahms. \$15 (\$12 students/seniors). Season tix: \$52 (\$44 students/seniors). 8pm. Tix/info: 642-8054; www.chambermusicpartn.org

Booksmith

Internationally known portraitist Don Bachardy reads selections and signs copies of his new book, *Stars in My Eyes*, a collection of celebrity portraits, rendered both in ink drawings and in prose. Bachardy, the partner of Christopher Isherwood, is famed for his sketches of actors, writers, artists, composer, directors and the Hollywood elite. He lives in Santa Monica. His works are in the collections of the Metropolitan, the de Young, the Smithsonian and London's National Portrait Gallery. He has published six other books of drawings. Free. 7pm. 1644 Haight St. 863-8688.

Tue

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Harvey Milk Institute class begins: "The Art of Making Clothes: Men's Shirts," taught by Jeffrey La Londe. Students learn how to take a basic upper-body sloper pattern and adapt it to fit, how



Michael and Andres by Steve Savage, part of his open studio Oct. 14-15, 11am-6pm, at 493 Haight St. #4.

to create the pattern for a tailored, button-down, long-sleeved collared shirt. \$160 + \$25 materials fee. 8 Tuesdays, Oct 17-Dec 12 (not Oct 31); 7-9:30pm. For information about this and other Harvey Milk Institute classes, phone 552-7200 or surf www.gayglobalsf.com/harveymilk; AOL Keyword: Harvey Milk.

Wed 18

Marin Center, San Rafael

The Whirling Dervishes of Turkey perform Sufi music, chanting and the whirling ceremony of Sema. Musicians and dancers from the Mevlevi sect have performed the ancient trance-like whirling ceremony — said to produce a feeling of ecstasy, soaring and mystical flight — for over seven centuries. The ritual allows the energy of God or Allah to travel through the dervishes' bodies and into the world. \$22 & \$28 (\$16 children 14 & under). 8pm. Tix: (415) 472-3500. Info: marin-center.org

Thu 19

Jon Sims Center

"Lit @ JSC," the Bay Area's first ongoing queer literary reading series in a non-commercial setting. Featuring spoken word and performance artist Justin Chin (*Mongrel; Bite Hard*) and poet, science-fiction writer and digital artist Khan Wong. Reception and booksigning follow. \$5-\$10

(NOTAFLOP). 8pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. (bwn. 11th St. & South Van Ness). 554-0402.

Jon Sims Center

Free workshops begin: Carla Lucero, composer and librettist for the upcoming controversial opera *Wuornos* (June 2001) will conduct a series of opera workshops starting today, beginning with libretto score analysis and continuing with solo vocal interpretation and choral work. Open to all; no prior musical training required. Space limited. Info: 554-0402.

Hang Gallery

Breast Cancer Action presents a celebration and discussion of the *First Look* by San Francisco photographer Amelia Davis, a book of photographs of bare-chested women who have undergone breast cancer surgery. A discussion will be moderated by ABC News correspondent Nancy Snyderman, M.D. Refreshments served. Free. 6-8:30pm. 556 Sutter St. (btwn Mason & Powell). RSVP: 243-9301, ext. 17. Info: www.bccaction.org

Eureka Theatre

42nd Street Moon stage the second run of its version of Cole Porter's "Out of This World," a 1950 comedy, adapted by Greg MacKellan, that puts Greek gods on the prowl for Hollywood movie stars in 1950s Athens. Music direction by Dave Dubrusky; choreography by Jayne Zaban. \$22 Wed. & Thu.; \$25 Fri., Sat., Sun.; \$19 students/seniors. 8pm (6pm Sat.; 2pm Sun.). Thru Oct. 29. 215 Jackson St. (at Battery). 788-1125; www.42ndStMoon.com

SnoDrift

Opening night: This sleek new restaurant/dance space inaugurates "Noor — The Light," a monthly "Oternational Mix" featuring phenomenal Bay Area trance DJ Cheb i Sabbah along with Dub Mission/KPFA DJ Sep. Expect a tony, sophisticated crowd. \$10. 10pm-3am. 21+ w/D. 1830 3rd St. (at 16th St.). Info: 431-4766; www.snodrift.com and/or chebisabbah.com

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Erp triumphs in Utica, New York

by Mark Mardon

The weather was cold and crisp in Utica, New York last weekend; the trees were crimson, and gold and leather was on parade in this small upstate New York city where leather lives and thrives.

I am sure everyone who attended the 2nd Annual Mr. North Atlantic Leatherman and Leatherboy contests had a good time. They certainly were glowing! That Place, the only bar in the area, was packed, and owner Marc Del Buono is about as great a bar proprietor as anyone could ask for. Holy cows of the leather world and club members from all over upstate New York and Canada were on hand to savor the hospitality that only the Utica Tri's MC can dispense. I never saw so much food and booze for weekend package ticket holders!

To make it interesting, six hunks were there vying for the leather man title, Roger Crutten, Bob Gasser, John Chambers, Bob Erp, John Marino and Ross Nadler. They were a feisty group who faced the judges with bravado, moxie and enthusiasm. Also on hand, going for the leather boy title, was Don Freeman of Sinking Wells, Pennsylvania). He had to earn at least 80 percent of the possible points to capture the sash.

Patti Brown of Chicago's world-famous Cell Block held sway over the other judges: Jerry Acosta, John Purdie, myself, outgoing Jimmie Lee Murray, and Randie Smith.

Needless to say, Frank Nowicki did the honors in his usual flawless emcee repertoire and contest producer Jack Goldstein scored a triumph with one of the most successful contest events in the Tri's history.

This event outgrew its former home, That Place Bar, and so almost everything that happened over the weekend, happened at the Downtown Radisson-Utica Hotel. With flawless service, an understanding staff, and convenient everything in the town, the hotel did the leathermen proud.

The meet and greet was held in That Place on Saturday night. The



Mr. North Atlantic Leather 2000 Bob Erp, center, was joined in the winner's circle by 1st runner-up John Marino, left, 2nd runner-up Bob Gasser, right, and North Atlantic Leather Boy Don Freeman, kneeling. The contest took place last Sunday, Oct. 8 in Utica, New York.

atmosphere was charged as the contestants jockeyed for position with support groups all over the place. It was great to see the brotherhood and camaraderie, most

evident not only between members of the singular bike clubs, but between the Utica Tri's and the other Upstate New York bike clubs. The Ottawa Knights of Ottawa were there in full force, and former Ms. SF Leather Queen Cougar surprised us all when she swept in to the territory in "revealing" splendor, accompanied by just one of her wives, the lovable Viola Johnson.

The other wife, Jill Carter was in Chicago, participating in the Onyx Men anniversary and the Mr. And Ms. Mid-America Leather contests staged at the Cell Block to send contestants to American Brotherhood in Washington, DC next April.

Food and drink were abundant at every event; play parties took place in the hospitality suites (that's right — plural). I daresay everyone got their money's worth for this weekend run, including a very classy t-shirt and run packets loaded with condoms and lube.

On Sunday afternoon, after a sumptuous brunch in the hotel, the contest was held and the

Olympic scoring system was used. The winner no longer competes at Mid-Atlantic Leather in Washington, D.C. Instead, the leather man goes directly to IML in Chicago; the leather boy competes for the American Leather Boy title at ABW in Washington, DC in April.

The parade of colors, introduction of the titleholders in attendance and the national anthems of both Canada and the U.S. were intoned. Jimmy Lee Murray and Randie Smith gave short, cogent and insightful "stepping aside" speeches, thanking various individuals. No tears, no drama, no trauma. They are a beautiful pair of men who did us proud during their year and who are ready to continue their good deeds.

When Bill Haber and Schelli Dittman finished adding the scores, the moment of truth arrived around 1700. Yes, the boy Don Freeman garnered enough points to win the title. They say the scoring was very, very close for the men. That cute Bob Gasser was the second runner-up; the pride of Green Island, NY John Marino was the first runner-up, and the second man to ever hold the title of Mr. North Atlantic Leather is Robert Michael Erp of Chichester, New York. Much cheering, whooping and hollering, applause, shrieks were heard.

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EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Friday, October 13

No details at my deadline, but tonight is the Mr. Fife's Leather contest up at the Russian River, so get over there for the festivities.

Also, Mr. SF Leather Lance Gear is celebrating his 30th birthday tonight beginning at 2100 at the Powerhouse. Of course it's a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund, and the cover is only \$5. Hosted by Mr. Edge Bob Miller and Mr. Daddy's Rob Esmonde. Be there to celebrate with the "old man."

Saturday, October 14

Cal Eagles MC bike run to BlackHawk Auto Museum in Danville. Meet at Daddy's at 0900 and bring \$\$\$ for gas, food, tolls and museum fees.

It's Mr. Triple R Leather contest at the Russian River Resort in Guerneville.

Ingu Yun's "Hoedown 2000" swings into action at the Galleria from 2000 to 0100 on Sunday. Lots of entertainment, Bare Chest Calendar Men, silent auction, and fun galore.

Mr. and Ms. Gay San Francisco contest at the California Club, with lots of entertainment, emcee'd by Toby and Jackie Best.

Sunday, October 15

Shanti's annual "Ride for Life" from SF to the Russian River, with KPIX newsman Hank Plante the starter. Departs at 0800 from 16th & Valencia, with a hearty lunch at Northwood Resort in Monte Rio. Be there!

Wednesday, October 18

Skiivie Time at 933 Harrison for Underwear Buddies; you know the rules, mandatory coat check, etc, but call 863-HEAD if you need more info. Leathermen's Discussion Group at Club Eros, the subject: Boots and Boot Men" at 1930. For more info, call 551-0871.

Alan Selby's benefit for Stop AIDS Project at the Edge, entitled: "Royal Stars on Parade," with Imperial & Ducal "starlets" performing. All this and a \$7 beerbust. Sounds like fun!

Saturday, October 21

The 15 Association monthly play party and you know where with \$10 donation, BYOB and guests must arrive with you.

PORN

Bad to the bone

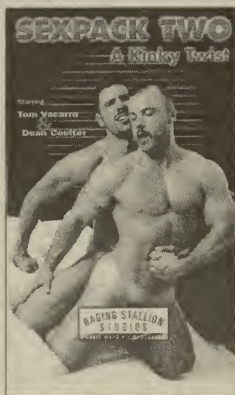
by John F. Karr

Four *Tight Tales*, the memorable first video of Raging Stallion Studio's *Sexpack* series of unrelated vignettes, featured some old-fashioned-type lovin' instead of the fierce fetish scenes that have given the company a bold profile. But that wasn't a promise that the series would stay that way. And it hasn't, in a big way. *Sexpack 2: A Kinky Twist* takes up where the strong action of *Sexpack One* left off, and includes some sensational stuff you won't see anywhere else. The opening scene showcases some red-hot lovemaking, after which the action becomes increasingly kinkier, escalating from the second scene's uniformed domination fantasy into an unforgettable hard-on bondage tattooing experience that must be a first-time-ever-on-video, and ending with a unique and forceful leathersex finale.

There's an incredible pantheon of bad-to-the-bone men in *Sexpack 2*, and best of

all, its 97-minute length allows the intense action to unfold at its own pace: two of the scenes get the full half-hour they demand. There's no plot entanglements, no distracting travelogue scenery or post-production special effects. Just big guys and rough action.

Scene One is called "Two American Booties" and stars lusty muscled-babe Dean Coulter and suavely handsome Tom Vaccaro as a pair of lovers locking together in playful high spirits and intense deep loving. Passionate kissing leads to passionate cock-sucking, as Dean engulfs Tom's solid slab of cock in some prodigious feats of deepthroating. Dean's not afraid to get messy, and chokes it down 'til there are balls smeared across his face and he breaks out in sweat. In a maddening display when Dean is astride him, Tom deftly uses his pistoning cock to tease and taunt Dean's buttercrack and glistening asshole. The provocation is too much — Dean spreads his mountainous cheeks out by hand, and slams the



full weight of his muscled body down onto Tom's mammoth shaft. It's a beautiful, exhausting scene, with every minute of its luxurious half-hour building relentlessly while lavishly displaying its lascivious playmates. These guys really connect.

Karnal Knowledge

The scenario of the video's second segment, "Cop and Robber," was suggested by its stars, bodybuilding bruisers Frank Parker and Joe Stack, whose mother must have mated with a redwood tree: Stack is mammoth and solid. This pair of real-life lovers enact with swaggering reality a fantasy scene of forceful domination, verbal abuse, and role reversal. It's after dark, and the locker room is empty — except for prowler Parker, who's jimmying the locks in search of jockstraps to satiate his sniff 'n' chew frenzy. But he's apprehended by uniformed patrolman Stack, and severely punished. Yet this only arouses Parker, who jumps Stack, gags his mouth with a jock and rams the officer's own nightstick up his ass.

Black magic

Fans of both tattoos and succulently swollen cocks will be mesmerized by what is certainly a unique, historic first: the third scene, "Marking the Boy," is an actual tattooing, during which the naked recipient is not only con-

stantly aroused, but bound in his chair. Zeus Boy of the Year '99 Robert Black himself asked the directors to film this scene, and the fulfillment of his fantasy keeps him hard throughout. More than a tattoo documentary, or a JO solo, this is a savvy and sexy melding by directors Chris Ward and J.D. Slater of the physical and mechanical sensations of the procedure, making palpable the sensuality, increasing rush, and need for release that come with being marked. Expert videography balances simultaneously a trio of elements — Black's tightly bound and throbbing erection, his swollen nipples, and the electric drill inking his arm. And when he finally shoots his load, check out that delicious grin.

The tension of sensation-wracked bodies is exploited in the leathersex finale, a generous half-hour of delicious torment called "Ring Studs." It stars a pair of striking newcomers who are Raging Stallion exclusives: darkly glamorous bottom Bryce Pierce (what a body! what a face!) and his lover, the sleekly shaved Michael Corey. They're into some kink that'll give you goosebumps, linked nipple to nipple and Prince Albert to Prince Albert by shining silver chain. With the heavy criss-cross of chain distending their nipples and stretching their stiff cocks aloft, these handsome leathermen present a haunting vision. Aroused by their chain-play, the men raise the stakes and look gorgeous after donning black leather harnesses and confining jocks. Bound in place by twin chains running from his multiply-pierced cock to the legs of a chair, Pierce is forced to endure a ferocious rimming by Corey. Reversing their roles, Pierce binds Corey, sucking his cock erect so that he can sit on it and rock savagely 'til the cum is flying. Wow!

As we've come to expect, the unpretentious style of directors Ward and Slater stays out of the way of the action, while framing and lighting it beautifully. So here's some hard-hitting, gut-level sex, with muscles, leather, bondage, tattoos, piercings, and just plain ravenous love of men loving men. Check out the hard-core photos of *Sexpack Two: A Kinky Twist* at RagingStallion.com. ▼

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Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

He will represent the area at IML in Chicago next May.

The only sour note in an otherwise glittery weekend is the news that Drummer Contests, Inc. has chosen the same weekend next year to hold their finals in Florida. Neither the Utica Tri's MC nor Drummer Contests, Inc. will vacate that weekend. It will be interesting to see where loyalties lie when the time comes. Too bad many of us will have to make a hard choice.

Mid-America

Meanwhile, the Onyx Men celebrated their anniversary, and three men and one woman competed for the Mid-America Leather Man title, and one woman for the Mid-America Leather Woman. The fantasies were very well-received and the judges did not have an easy time of it. When all was said and done, the first runner-up male was Christopher Maher and the winner of the title, Michael Allison. Mid-America



Butts on parade: Emcee Frank Nowicki had the Mr. North Atlantic Leather contestants display some of their finer attributes in the physique segment of the event last Sunday, Oct. 8 in Utica.

Leather Woman is Lynell Long. Both will compete at American Brotherhood Weekend in Washington, DC next April.

Left coast

Back here in Faghdad-by-the-Bay, the Phoenix Uniform Club held their beer bust at the Eagle on Sunday and a great time was had by all according to reliable

sources. It was also Fleet Week weekend but the fog managed to keep the Blue Angels feeling the blues. Baseball playoffs were dominating elsewhere and the 49ers lost a heartbreaker. Hey, it's the fall season, so enjoy all the warmth and fun coming your way.

Be sure to click on www.leatherpage.com for news from columnists all over the country. ▼

BAR TALK



photo by Steven Underhill, digital manipulation by Mike Hardison

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PARTING GLANCES

A Longshot Wed 8/31 7pm Gold's Market Street. Me: rushing to Yoga. You: freshly showered. Said "Hi" at sinks. Can't stop thinking about that smile and all the possibilities. Call ??? 72363

Seeking Telephone Man Martinez You are tall, blond, blue eyes, 47yo. work for Pac Bell. We met at American River 7/12. I'm from Virginia City. We kissed. Can't get you out of my mind. 72379

Supercuts Fillmore Sun. 3:00 Me: GAM, glasses, hand mirror. You: WM, white tee, by the door, your hair cut after me. R u gay? single? dinner? 72380

Kent Met Castro And 18th. You gave me J.D.'s phone # and walked away with my heart. I should have gotten yours. Tried everything to locate you. Please respond and give me a second chance. Dave. 72381

Steamworks 9/6, Sling Room I'm lean, buzzed bottom. You checked out my buttplug, got me dogstyle, rode me. I came quick because room time was up. How about a long night with your fist, my sling? 72382

Chow Fri 9/8 7:30pm You: Hung eating at counter turning around to check us out. Us: muscled, redhead, goatee, glasses and hunky goateed daddy with huge arms. You left smiling. Want more? 72384

Passport Thurs 14 Sept. We exchanged glances and smiles on bus. You wore a dark suit and carried a goody bag. I wore a green hooded pullover. Let's clarify those glances and smiles. 72409

"Sam" You Are On My Mind! Badlands on 9-2. After blow jobs in my car, we went to Concord and slept together. I can't stop thinking about you. Call me. 72413

Mechanics Library Muni subway, Friday evening Sept. 15. You: handsome man with goatee and beautiful eyes. Me: bow tie and beard. Discussed Agatha Christie. Please call! 72410

Powerhouse, After FolsomFair, 9/24 Me: blonde surfer with goatee, very involved in sex pig activity in back bar area. Me: liked what I saw, felt. Second chance? 72463

Mollie Stones SF Sept. 12 You: At checkout, your goatee frames & great smile. Me: in blue AIDS ride shirt, sniffing pineapples, fruit salad, perhaps? 72411

Matt, Heard You Sing At Mint You: Asian, great smile, beautiful Spanish and French songs. Let's meet for dinner. Me: White, 6'0", professional, can't stop thinking about you. Was too shy to say hi. 72412

Malaysian Ken-Andrew Watched sunset, said I love you, then messed up everything. I am forever sorry. All my fault, saw you Hayes bar Sept. 12. You look awesome blond. Call me Andrew. 72414

On Muni 09/12 Noonish, Boarded at Castro. You reading newspaper. We talked about U.S. dollar becoming national currency in Central America and the proximity of dentists versus chiropractors. No time to finish, I'd like to. 72433

Kevin-Back Cov'd W/Tatts-Folsom Doorway, late afternoon. I'm very tall, built, hairy. I was busy, asked how I'd find you. You'd find me 'cause I'm easy to spot. You didn't; my turn. Call Sailor. 72434

Cute Asian Ballad Master 8-28 Me: was with a group at the Mint. Didn't have the chance to talk to you. 5'10", White, vgl. You: about 5'8", Asian, dressed all black, glasses. Call Jeremy. 72435

SFO United Shuttle 9-10 8am Me gray beard, -when boarding asked if you were going to Palm Springs- you said Sacto- would like to get to know you. Let's talk. 72436

Sexy Asian On Castro 9/16 You: attractive Asian man with great eyes. Me: man in blue shirt walking with friend. We both turned around to look again. Let's meet. Call me. 72437

El Ambiente Man Sat 9/23 3pm Bench. You: sitting with friends on bench near Lattices, beautiful smile. Me: cap and cut-off jeans. Have seen one another at Ambiente. Let's talk! 72438

Sunset Market Sat 9/23 You: Caucasian, blond, white t shirt. Me: Asian, cargo short, dark gray shirt. Can't stop thinking about your kind words of the photograph. Would like to return the compliment. 72439

Emeryville Grey Saab PNL 9-19 Sunday 9/10 at 10:30am in Cafe Flore. Navy blue shorts, gray shirt, stammering smile, youthful. Exchanged glances/ smiles. Me: blond guy near entrance in corner. Love to meet— you? 72483

Handsome Asian Reading Flash 4 Sunday 9/10 at 10:30am in Cafe Flore. Navy blue shorts, gray shirt, stammering smile, youthful. Exchanged glances/ smiles. Me: blond guy near entrance in corner. Love to meet— you? 72483

Saw You On Sunway 9-15 @ 5:30pm You: GWM, 20's?, short brown hair, nice smile. Me: GWM, s&p hair, white shirt, glasses. We got off at Church Street. You went right. I waved and went left. Meet? 72408

Harvey's Saturday Sept. 23 You: very tall almost bald, shorts, Banana Republic bag sitting next to Black friend at the bar. Me: across from you with friends standing tall muscular mustache looking at you. 72461

Man Driving Bare-Chested Blue subway, westbound on Interstate #80 near Auburn, Wed, Sept. 27. We smiled at each other. I was driving a green 2-door Mazda-MX6. Would like to meet you. S 72462

Larry At YMCA Sat Sep. 30 Me: Black guy who kept staring at you while you were getting dressed. I'd do anything to have hands and tongue over you. You're so sexy! 72464

Saturday September 30, 8:00PM We both got on the 24 Divis at 18th and Castro. You: gorgeous dark-haired man in black short-sleeve shirt. Me: white t-shirt, carrying groceries. Exchanged many looks! Wish we had gotten off together! 72465

"Where Is Kitty Glamour?" I've lost track of you! You've always been the Castro's hottest, sexiest & most talented "Drag-Queen!" Your adoring fans miss seeing you perform! 72466

Jim At My Place Sunday 10/1 We had hot fun, went out back together, you to smoke after (How Appropriate!), you said you'd watch for me. But I'm rarely there that early, so if you want to connect again, leave message. Would love to get to know more of you. Al, from Oakland. 72467

Church Street Station Fri. Am 9/29 Roger, you were the darling guy telling me about your Kayaking plans. You stepped off at Powell before I could ask you out! "Single?" 72468

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

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Can Old Dogs Learn New Tricks? Attractive mature WM life long pussy eater seeks senior citizen with "6" or more to teach me how to suck your cock. Possible on-call cock service as needed. 72366

Attractive 36yo WM Seeks HM Or Middle Eastern for good times. Be attractive with a sense of humor, h/wt prop. Smoker ok. Give me a call. 72418

POZ GWM For POZ GAM 41yo GWM, 152, 5'8" versatile bottom in search of GAM who is also HIV+... Looking for a good time and maybe more. I'm a loving and sweet man. 72385

GWM 32 5'7" 175 Br/Gr POZ Muc Funny, senackie, caring, sensual ISO GM any race in shape, sexy, minimal attitude, who likes exercise, eating, dancing, laughter & pleasure of the flesh. 72386

Handsome Young Russian Looking for another intelligent Russian or European in his 20's or 30's to give my body and soul. You shall not be disappointed. 72388

A Luv Connection At 35+ It get trickier: No 6 pak stomach, nor a bubble butt, and now poz too? Me: GWM, 135#, 5'6", avg. looks. You: in shape top w/similar stats... N/S, N/D. 72415

Sex Partner Desired By a romantic GWM. Please be Asian, any age for long time relationship. I'm yours anytime. I'm always horny for Asian men. 72441

Sexual Craving... Older man will submit to dominant man. Is obedient in all aspects. Edwardian sensibilities & setting. 72416

Like Nothing You've Ever Known Rare, masculine, attractive, grounded, athletic, intelligent, a typical quality GM 38 seeks same, 35+ who's outside the scene, w/integrity, heart, humor. I don't think you exist. Prove me wrong. N/S, HIV-. 72417

West Sonoma County 30ish, M, any race for genuine time together & more. We are both slender, open-minded, single, healthy, somewhat introverted & attractive, N/S, GWM in medical field, 55, 6'. 72419

Daytime Play & Who Knows? HIV+, 39, 200#, 5'11", 185lbs., seeks men 35-50 to drive crazy in & out of bed. N/drugs, n/alcohol, n/gym bodies. Looking for an honest, real, normal man. LTR? 72420

Unconventional Professional Very bright, attractive, athletic, conversational, not glib passionate, discreet, intense, silly, tender, 160, 6', 40's, healthy HIV+, out of gay scene. You're attractive, like-minded. 72421

GWM 39 Ready 2 Go! Easy going guy, 5'11", 185lbs., seeks 30-45yo, quality guy. Interests include music, theatre, travel & having a good time. Leave a message. 72422

GAM Seeks GWM40ongoing Partner Affectionate & caring GAM 5'9", 142 for mature GWM: HIV- N/S/D; open LTR. Slender/slim and bottom a plus. 72440

Last Chance... For Scorpio who wants to have the best lover in the world. GWM 40yo. wants to be with you only. Let's talk. I want you so bad, baby. 72442

Skin To Skin Attractive easy going comfortable with self tactile 40yo GWM, 5'6", 155lbs. gmb/m healthy in-shape professional. Unsimilar age/size build to beery, honest and fun. 72443

Man Of Quality Seeks Same Is any body looking to date a 42yr old professional man? Here I am! ISO 35-45 yr old GWM with a sense of humor and willingness to create a relationship. 72444

Clean Cut GWM 42 Seeks 35 to 45yo a top 6'3", 200lbs, professional s&p hair, blue/green eyes, HIV-. Enjoy travel, music, movies & more! Let's do it! HIV-only pls. LV. msg. 72367

Fuck Buddy Wanted! Hot, hung, masculine muscular, Big-Dick Italian top ISO masculine, in-shape fuck buddies, any race, under 45. I want someone I can fuck on a regular basis. 72469

Affectionate Mature Men WLM 45, 160lbs, dk hr. ISO mature men 55+ for deep kissing, oral pleasure & affection. Full/long beards, non-buffed, liberal-minded a plus. No gay lifestyle, drugs, but smoking is ok. 72387

How About A Date Cute, thin boyish, GWM 31, 5'11", goatee, East Bay seeks 30-40's beefy GWM, Me? film student, gym (just started), sense of humor, try new things, you? Great character/personality. 72389

Burning Man Of The Heart Tribe comes together. WM, 36, HIV+ soul of fire, celebrating life/nature. Welcomes men of heart HIV+/- all races. Forming friendships, heart connections, community, sacred love, exploration freedom/self. 72470

"VA Ham Seeks California Beef!" Beefy Cal Ripken Jr. Type: attractive, hairy, top, 40-something, 6', 180#, German-Italian, creative prof., wanted by attr, masc GBM, cocoa brown, 40, goatee, 5'11", 175#, writer, into romance. 72471

GWM, 42 Available 4 U Me: 6'3", 200lbs, gm eyes. You: 35 to 45yo, top, 5'10" or taller. Interests: romance, travel, movies, quality time together. HIV- only pls. 72472

"Gorgeous HIV- Spanish Asian" VGL, discreet, muscular/line 29, 5'7", 150# in shape, non smoker/drinker. In military seek monogamy with handsome stable and easy going man. 72473

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Spank me! Boy 24 needs over the knee discipline from a dominant brother. Athletic jock in speedos. 72368

Black Submissive Seeks Top hds in good shape body raunch (+) sleaze. Available evenings & some week ends. 72423

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Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

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You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
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Pump My Pussy

Italian bottom studs needs it up the ass on regular basis. Three-ways welcome! Five or more, the better! Cum take a ride! ☎ 72369

Palo Alto Asian Cocksucker 42

5'11", 190# blk-brn sks White men with medium to large cock to suck off with no reciprocity, ub on the mid Peninsula, light skin Blacks welcome. ☎ 72370

You'd Never Guess

Average ugly duckling 50's, 6', 200# non-gym, HIV-, cut, smoker top, fra/p small package (until excited), then you're gagging, looking for cut younger bottom for fuck/suck fest. ☎ 72371

What Was Your Teenage Fantasy?

38yo WM 5'7", 120" in-shape seeks other sim White or Asian men to re-live mutual strippling and ju. Daytime preferred. ☎ 72372

GWM 45 Looking To Meet

Others for dating. Me 180#, med bld, 5'9" btm, not furry like vanilla & footplay with 40+ Men furry A+. ☎ 72373

Explore BI Lives

Curious, mature bi/wm seeks same for conversation about how we view our lives to date and envision the future as our sexual batteries run down. ☎ 72390

Seeking 50+ Asian Top

GWM, 61, 6', 165#, easy to be with, good looking, balding, avg build, HIV- seeks Asian. Call and let's talk about it. ☎ 72426

"Do Me A Favor?"

Insatiable, uninhibited party boy wants to play long and hard, at your place or hotel. VGL, GBM, 9+ct, 6', 178. Btm/Vers. Hung and serious only. ☎ 72391

Velvet Lined Deep Throat

Submissive cocksucker, 38yrs. 185 buzzat, tats, at your service. HIV- looking for masculine man 30-50. HIV-. ☎ 72392

Versatile Hung Party Bottom

Master of anal and oral arts, 50 GWM HIV+, 5'8", 140# looking for other versatile men for party and play time! ☎ 72393

Young European Slave Boy

Is looking for an attractive young master in his 20's or 30's for any required training. Full obedience and cooperation guaranteed. ☎ 72394

"Want To Play?"

GWM, 30's, HIV+ bottom, seeking tops into hot man to man pleasure play. S 72445

Bi WM Sucking Older Bi. W Guys

Looking for late 40's, 50's, 60's Black & White, older guys for mutual cocksucking. This late 40's bi WM needs it- Castro area. Weekdays only. ☎ 72397

Tight Hairy Butt 4 Uncut Cock

34yo, 6'3" tall, muscular swimmers build masculine, handsome, ll, brown hair/blue, hairy tight butt, hung 7.5", seeks masculine guys with uncut for oral and anal pleasure. ☎ 72424

Homo Hobo!!!!

Homeless dude, sandaled feet, sun-reddened skin, real holes in jeans, looking for safe fun, together, al fresco? Tight butt from sitting on bottom. A taste of the outdoors? yes? maybe? ☎ 72425

I'm A Butt Banger, 47 And Hung

Seeking a masculine, mature, submissive bottom for hot quickies. Conservative appearance and moustache a must. No voicemail, work phone or beards/goatees. Serious only. ☎ 72427

NorthBay Sexy Boyfriend Wanted

Wanted sexy guys White/Black to share my girl slut secrets. Maybe be my part time nasty boyfriend. Bi/W/M/M discreet 5'10", 180#, 31yo attr. Shaved. All night uninhibited partying. Love to pose for camera. ☎ 72428

Well-Hung Butch Bottom

Highly sexed 50 year old, GWM, HIV+, 8' cut with big head, loves to party and play with butch tops, who like an aggressive, hot, passionate butch bottom! ☎ 72429

My Perfect Sex Mate...

Is an aggressive but versatile top, 35-55, masculine, endowed, HIV-neg, into role play and light SM mixed with affection. Available in the evening, and hairy A+. I'm a handsome, tall, height-to-weight proportionate, 43yo, versatile bottom. If we're a match. Let's play. ☎ 72395

East Bay Hispanic

Versatile, nicely endowed with small white ass for your enjoyment. Be HIV- mature, drug free, any race. Am 5'8", 155, HIV- mature, safe sex please. ☎ 72396

Asian Muscle Tops Wanted

GWM 25, 6'2" 34yo, 52ch, 19" arms. Me: clean cut, bright blue eyes, mild hair, HIV-. You: smooth, 18-40, workout, must be dominant top. ☎ 72446

Take Erotic Pics Of Me!

If you have a digital camera and want to take nude and erotic pics of me-call. I'm 34, 6', 155lbs. HWP, attractive, 7" cut. ☎ 72452

Uncut, Hung-9, Hairy, Masc, Musc

GWM, 50, 5'9", 160, balding, mustache/goatee, versatile dad, ISO masc/musc fit man, great butt, nice cock, "nipple work" verbal, light s&m, rough, tender, kiss & cuddle. Live on east coast, visiting S.F. Nov. Nude photo required, butt photo get mine. I am HIV- poz/ok! ☎ 72447

SR Seeks SR Daytime Lover/Dad

60-100+, any shape, handicap, honest, serious, self-assured, healthy, clean, clean-shaven, cut, gentle, non smoking, into necking, fondling & oral sex only. I'm 64, 5'7", 128#. Compatibility rests on chemistry, not common interests. ☎ 72448

Poet Seeks Illiterate Big Cock

To teach oration skills. Learn classic Greek and Modern, French, analysis, gay playthings enacted. Spanish romances recited. No bookworms. ☎ 72449

Looking For Hairy Top

Gay/BI wanted by slim, smooth, hairless GWM late 30's 5'8", 145# 7" cut-butt/cock play open to role-play/jockstraps/kink. ☎ 72450

Hot Spanish Loves Butt Play & Games

X sexy, masc, 32/5'7"/145 bubble butt loves rimming, butt-sniffing, enemas, toys, jocks & exploring all facets with you; masc; 30-45 bubble butt w/stache, beard/goatee, also threesomes+ + San Jose. ☎ 72451

Poz GBM Sks GWM Top

38, 165lbs, 6ft smooth, submissive. Don't be PC. Tell me how you want me to take it. ☎ 72453

Free Massage For The Naked

Soothing body work available for guys with tight bodies from 20 to early 40's. Given trim straight acting guy with talented hands. ☎ 72454

Let Me Take A Photo Of It!

Show me that pretty pink butthole, how about with my finger or tool in it? or? snap! snap! Photographer seeks young in-shape models for fun polaroids sessions. ☎ 72455

Daddies Fuckhole!

Always hot and horny, no games-no hassles. Whip it off and call again anytime! ☎ 72474

"Got A Hand?"

Stand out White guy (6'6") mid-40's, muscled, looks, smart, clean shaven, hung, HIV-, blind swimmer, working on ejaculation control, mutual j.o. str8 or bi ok. North Bay best. ☎ 72475

Oakland Fun

GWM, 46yrs old 6'1"-210lbs. Lives in Oakland. Would like to meet jo-buddy. Cum on my face?? ☎ 72479

Tall Guys With Big Cocks

Handsome muscular hung Italian seeks tall guys with big cocks. Are you a versatile tall guy or a total top? I'm versatile and very oral with deep ass. ☎ 72476

Submissive Black Bottom

Seeks top dominant (+) verbal and have own place. Available eves & some week ends. ☎ 72477

On My Knees And Ready To Serve

I'm 5'8", ISO btm hair & eyes. I want to spend my vacation servicing daddy's dick. You: hung top who knows what he wants. ☎ 72478

I Want To Be Your Bitch

Butch WM 47, light brown hair, green eyes, 5'8", hvy, wants to be your bitch if you are a Black guy, cock worship, nasty talker A+. ☎ 72480

Spank Me. Cute Frat Boy 22

Needs over the knee discipline from a dominant big brother. I wear speedos, jockstraps and briefs. Castro. ☎ 72481

LESBIAN**GF Seeks Euro Partner**

Whom seeks marriage of convenience w/mutually beneficial rewards. Professional minded. ☎ 72398

Voicesex Roleplay Dirtytalking

Bi male loves female voice, wishing sex talk and role playing on phone-from nice to naughty to nasty- your choice. Tell me all your dirty stuff secrets, confidentially. ☎ 72482

FETISHES**Seeking Serious Nipple Buddy**

I'm a 45yr old stocky 190# serious nipple pig with huge erect nipples. Brn/brn, salt & pepper goatee, tats, piercings, smoke cigarettes. Looking for a super masc, muscular dominant nlp. pig buddy for serious workouts with growth in mind. Please call, smoker + +. ☎ 72374

Heavy Duty Butt Play

South Bay goodlooking, muscular, GWM, 6'1", 190lbs. HIV-. Into videos, toys, bondage. ISO muscular top for mutual pleasure and expanding limits. ☎ 72375

Feed Me

Bearded GWM, 36 & handsome, seeks masc. men to enjoy this pig's mouth. WS, dirty rimming, gentle subordination, gra/p. Cum, relax, open up. ☎ 72377

Buttsniffer In San Jose

Wild sexy GWM 32, 5'7", 150, HIV- bubble butt-sniffing, rimming, jocks, spanking, toys, three-ways, sexy games. You give/take the same with bubble butt pref. blonds/brown & bearded. ☎ 72399

Sit Sit Sit On A Face Gently

Flows the stream. Into the mouth into the mouth life is but a scream. Brown brown the nose anything goes anything goes it tastes like ice cream. ☎ 72400

~Hung Bondage Topman~

Me: hung, White, 40, in-shape. You: younger, in-shape, into sucking tool, lickin butt, gettin tied up and fucked (safely). "Call Now, Boy!"... ☎ 72401

Farm Dirt Play

Wanted by raunch animal. I am looking for dirty tricks at the farm. I am 49, 6-1, 185, and gldg and a very horny animal. ☎ 72402

Hot Leather Couple In SF 09-21/26

Both 42, HWP, bearded into boots & leather, FF, CBT, lite SMDB, nipple work. Versatile, fun players seek same. Same 35-65. Facial hair a must, hung A+ +. ☎ 72403

Service Bodybuilder/Biker

Hot hung bodybuilder and biker requires simultaneous front and rear servicing. Join my other hardworking old pig in sweaty rewarding job. Take care of my brown and yellow needs. ☎ 72404

FF Tops Wanted

Masculine 34 in-shape seeking top leather to open, stretch my hole with toys and hands. Let's get those lips big and saggy. ☎ 72405

Hole Punch Buddies Sought

35yo Latino, 5'11", 155lbs, slim build, mostly bottom. Seeking others into punching butt or having own hole punched. Also into large dildos/ some partying. ☎ 72430

Two Dyke Tops

Want to practice CBT! We are responsible and knowledgeable. We just don't have boyfriends! ☎ 72431

40 Yr Old Piss Top

Needs btm stud to guzzle recycled beer; in shape masc. lb2; no hard drugs-poppers cool; I'm hairy, HWP; no raunch; tourists-hotels welcome. ☎ 72432

Sadist Master Top Needed

By bodybuilder slave/bottom who has been trained not to expect sexual gratification without pain. Slave will respond promptly to any inquiry by an interested Sadist/Master/Top. ☎ 72457

ISO S/M FF Tops

I am 5'2", 120 HIV- shaved bottom in Sacramento, ISO S/M FF, hung tops with big toys for safe sex age, race looks unimportant, let's talk. ☎ 72458

Milkman Seeks A Good Gum-job

If you're a "tooth-less tiger" and can deep-throat a big plunger head, you might get more than you thought you would. 6', 42, 170lbs. of laid-back man. Long chewing sessions a plus! ☎ 72459

Daytime Asshole-Eater!!

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! ☎ 72376

Diaper Boy ISO A Daddy

Me: 38, 6', 195#, brown hair, hzl eyes. You fun loving daddy who likes a diaper boy also have fun like spanking and humiliation. ☎ 72483

Sacramento Enemate

Trim, discreet, 40's WM ISO another male who also enjoys sensual give and take. I can travel. ☎ 72456

Seeking Nipple Workout Buddy

I'm a 45 yr old stocky 190#, serious nipple-pig with huge erect nipples brn/brn, salt & pepper goatee, tats & piercings, smoker, looking for super masc, muscular dominant nlp pig daddy ready for serious wk outs with growth in mind, please call- smoker + + + +. S 72484

COUPLES**2 Cocks Are Better Than One**

Attractive mature White male seeks couple to take turns jerking-off on my face. Invite a friend or two of yours and make it a facial cum bath party. ☎ 72378

GWM 5'9" 140lbs Blond Smooth

Seeking couples that need a middle man- Tall Dark Handsome, a plus-Aroma ok- double hung adventure. ☎ 72406

OTHERS**GWM Seeks Dyke...**

Who wears her red and black hankies on the left. 40, 165, 5'10", HIV-. ☎ 72407

Prepared To Be Servile...

I am a 59 year old male mistress with sex apartment. I will grovel if you wish. Whatever you want. ☎ 72485

Latex Love!

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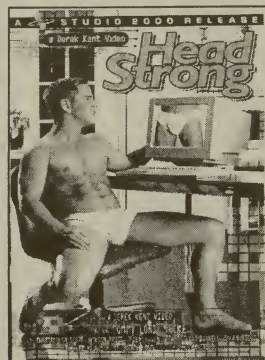
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Book Report

◀ page 38

"Cleis Press is accepting submissions for a book of erotic photographs of lesbians. Photographers (of all genders) are invited to send b&w and/or color images depicting any aspect of lesbian erotic or sexual expression. All artistic styles welcome." Contact fdelacoste@cleispress.com for guidelines, and then start snapping.

Events for readers

Don Bachardy, Christopher Isherwood's longtime companion, reads from *Stars in My Eyes* on October 16, 7 p.m. at The Booksmith, 1644 Haight St.

The keynote panel at this year's Readers and Writers on October

14, 11 a.m., features a discussion of "The State of Queer Fiction" by panelists Herb Green, Felice Picano, Jennifer Joseph, Frederique Delacoste, and, not to put too fine a point on it, me. Richard Labonte moderates. The award for most intriguing title goes to "Shut Off The Computer & Come to Bed: Writing and Relationships" with Jess Wells (moderator), M. R. Daniel, Elana Dykewomon, and Krandall Kraus, 4:00-5:30 p.m. on Saturday. Readers and Writers runs October 13-15 at Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th Street at Collingwood. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to DeborahPeifer@msn.com, or via snail mail to the B.A.R.

Lavender Tube

◀ page 40

ior. Iverson did say this week that he wasn't a role model for kids. Like we needed to be told?

Brava to conservative African-American columnist Amy Holmes. Not only is she articulate, smart and drop-dead gorgeous, but she had the guts to speak out against Nation of Islam bigot Louis Farrakhan last week on *PI*. Where other black leaders have hedged and equivocated on the matter of Farrakhan's anti-Semitism, homophobia and overall bigotry, Holmes stated quite succinctly that Farrakhan was a hatemonger with eugenic views. (Holmes also referenced the oft-ignored fact that Farrakhan supports the black-on-black slavery in the Sudan because those being enslaved are quite dark-skinned.) Kudos to Holmes for refusing to embrace Farrakhan's reprehensible politics

in the name of politically correct race solidarity. Now if only the Log Cabinettes could stop using Roy Cohn as their role model.

New season VCR alerts: *ER* season premiere airs tonight, this season promising more queer storylines. Aaron Spelling's *Titans* is trash TV at its most wondrously guilty-pleasuring on Wednesdays. Fox's Friday night *Freakylinks* is nouveau *X-Files* from the *Blair Witch Project* team. We also recommend a look on Mondays at NBC's *Deadline*, if only to catch Bebe Neuwirth at her Lilit-like bitchy best (she is so fabulous). Star Oliver Platt ain't bad, either. *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer* is back in full satiric bite on the WB Tuesdays. (Willow and Tara, the only dykes on prime time, were touching this week!) And the much-awaited queer-bait *Normal, Ohio*, starring John Goodman as a gay dad, debuts on Fox November 1. Oh, and the final prez debate airs October 17. Did we say we love TV? ▼



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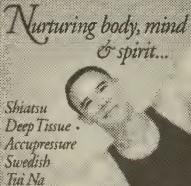
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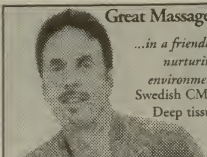
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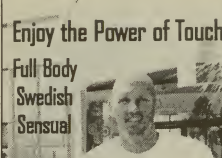
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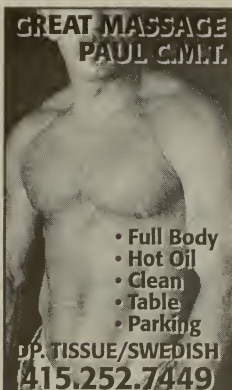
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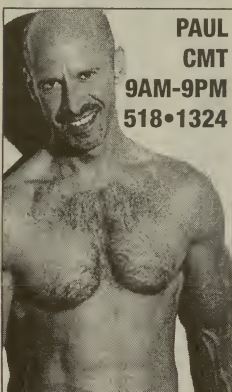
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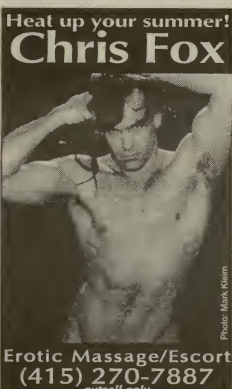


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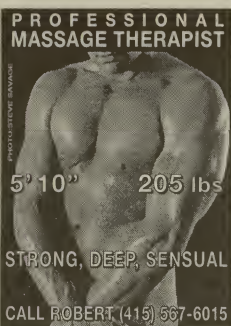
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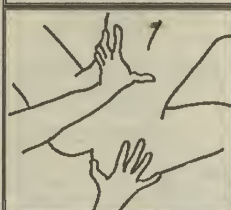
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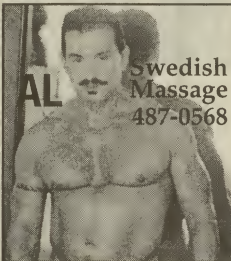
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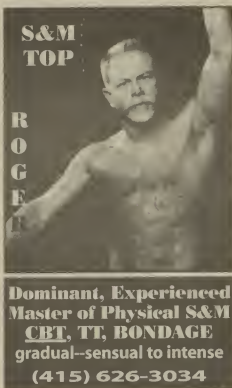
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I am homeless at
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HANDSOME BLUE-EYED MAN
w/thick hairy muscles 6', 215#
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Tall blond All American muscle
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classical, good looks hung x thick
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Hot straight skateboarder and
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Handsome 23yo/w packed shorts
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Lean, athletic body- top/vers.
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GWM top 9 1/2x7, 6', 170 gym toned
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40yo top 6'1", 195# 7"uncut, flattop
Gd lking into bondage, s/m, w/s,
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Beginner? Have playspace & equip.
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Dominant Leatherman
Bondage, SM, WS, CBT, F/F, Fetish, Slave Training.

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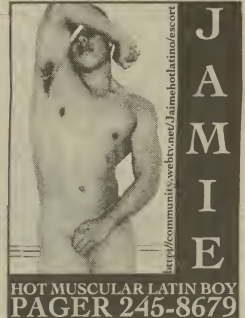


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Muscular bottom, lean 2 smooth
Ready & eager to serve you
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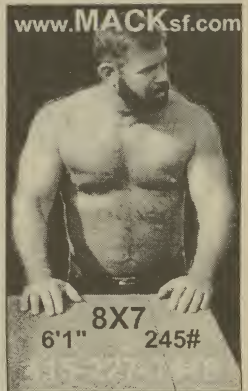
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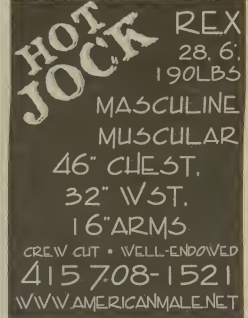


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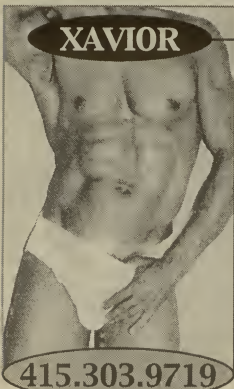
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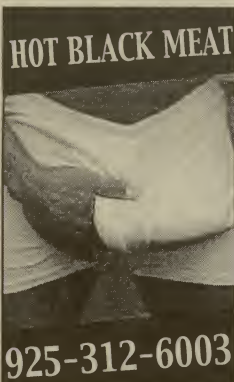


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Carlos anytime.

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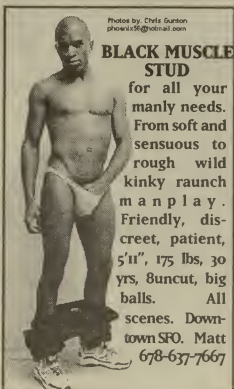
8 inches cut/ naturally hairless out only

JAKE 790 2634

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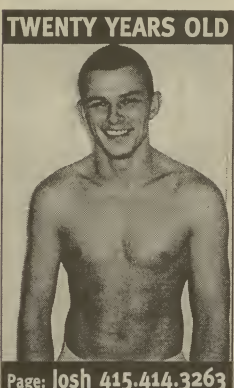
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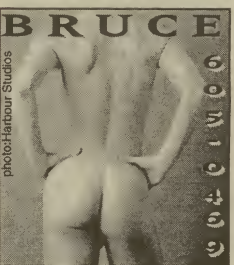
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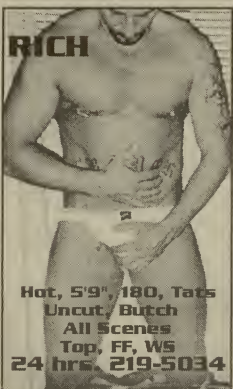
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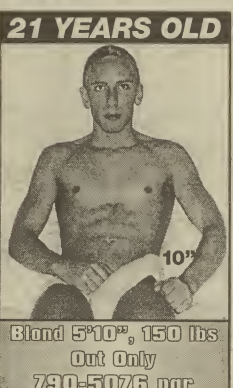
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E41

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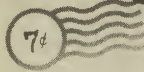
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Use Access Code 4858

Good Head in Sonoma County.
Call Days 707-823-3895

Bare-Assed Spanking
Experienced, Safe: 504-7776

BI-CURIOS?
Explore your desires. TONIGHT! On
The Confidential Connection! 18+
CALL 415-247-2000
Use Access Code 3954

WM, well bit, 8", nds well bit men
(20-37) w/firm butt to eat. 776-7472

WE BUY PORN!
We purchase photos, magazines and
videos. Please call Steve or Patrick
Mon-Fri daytime at 621-1188. Turn
that stash into cash!

Daytime deep throat service for men
given by a 61 year expert!! Call Sam
at 771-2154 for service!

Naughty Little Boys Spanked
over Daddy's Knee #864-2766

Body Trim & Shave * Castro Area
Location. Call 4 Apptmt. 626-1168

Bear lookin' fer party bottoms ef yer
hankerin' for toys or fist up yer butt
now call 752-0971

BAY AREA REPORTER

PERSONALS ORDER FORM

Indicate
Type Style
Here ▼

DEADLINE

NOON on MONDAY.
Payment must accompany ad.
No ads taken over the
telephone. If you have a
question, call 415.861.5019.
Display advertising rates
available upon request.

RATES

First line, Regular 4.50
All subsequent lines 3.00
CAPS double price
BOLD double price
X-BOLD triple price

PAYMENT

- ☐ Cash
☐ Personal Check
☐ Money Order
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge
on Visa and MasterCard.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Name

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Telephone

Address

City

State

Zip

Number of Issues

Classification

Amount Enclosed

MAIL WITH
PAYMENT TO:

BAY AREA
REPORTER
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

OR FAX TO:
415.861.8144

PERSONALS

PEOPLE

415-MAN-TALK

626-8255
TALK*SEX*PERSONALS
LTHR*FETISH*S/M*KINK
18+*MC*V*AE*D*CHECKS

MEET HOT GUYS!

JOIN THE PARTY ON
Club Voice-MALE™ TONIGHT!
Browse, Match & Chat! 18+

Call 415-247-5555 Use Access code: 3981

Meet MEN Right Now!

MRN

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Preview each guy before you
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Try it for

FREE

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415-MAN-TALK

626-8255
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LTHR*FETISH*S/M*KINK
18+*MC*V*AE*D*CHECKS

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Top Dollar paid. Please call Jose or
Branton. 415-285-9159. Turn your
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Daddy will train
trim lad in the art of
obedience thru bondage/discipline
Tom * 681-9841

Chub ISO recreational sex GWM
6'1", 340lbs, 58years young ISO sex
very oral will experiment, WS,
any age size, race big tits & ass
belly (5'6") write P.O. Box 31754
S.F., CA 94131.
Sammx57@aol.com. Let's get naked
right away and see what comes up!

Lift? Wrestle? Box? Bareknux?
LET'S FIGHT! 415-264-3135

I'll smack your buns! 510 654-1122

GUT PUNCHERS
925-939-3519

Butt, Ball, Nip Bodywork
COCK REFLEXOLOGY
\$60 SPAWN 415-255-1164

Outrageous Videos! Scat WS FF
piercings/ nailings. Call Peter
(949) 240 2220 \$45.00 V/MC/AE \$
to P.O. Box 2601 Capo. Bch, Ca.
92624 phone/too!

Gay/Lesbian hotline 415-355-0999

Paul Spanks! Call 415-861-4739

Good Head in Sonoma County.
Call Days 707-823-3895

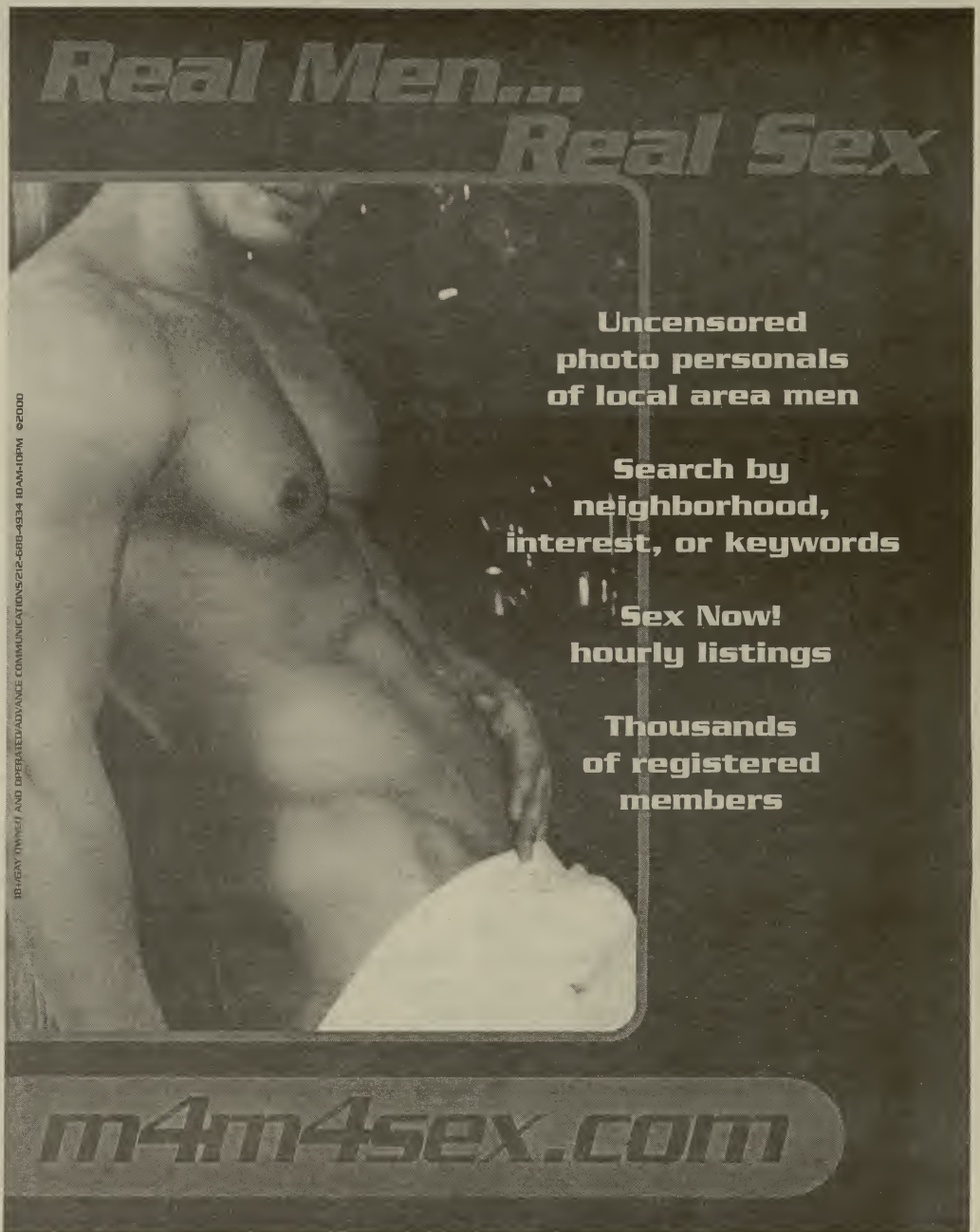
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